COORDINATION OF ALASKA MISSIONS

Executive Committee Meeting - January 16, 1930

"In harmony with a recommendation submitted by the preliminary meeting of denominational representatives, held in New York on December 31, at which Bishop E. G. Richardson presided, the Home Missions Council registered an action, involving the constitution of a Central Interdenominational Commission on Alaska Missions, the personnel of said commission to embrace three representatives from each of the several denominations now engaged in mission work in the Territory of Alaska. The purpose of this commission is to canvass the possibilities of territorial reallocation, closer cooperation and even an interdenominational merger of the total evangelical missionary enterprise in Alaska.

"I recommend the appointment of two men to represent this board and, because of the interests they represent, that the Woman's Home Missionary Society be requested to name the third representative. It is understood that the other members of our present Committee of Five on Alaska will continue to function in an advisory capacity."

Executive Committee Meeting - March 20, 1930

"Alaska - The first meeting of our interdenominational committee, representing six denominations actively engaged in missionary service to that territory, was held on March 11, in New York City. Your Secretary was asked to serve as chairman of the general committee, which has undertaken a careful survey of the total task, preparatory to the consideration of readjustment possibilities in the interest of both economy and efficiency. This initial meeting was characterized by a fine spirit of Christian Courtesy and mutual consideration."

Executive Committee Meeting - September 18, 1930

"Alaska Missions - At a meeting of the Interdenominational Committee on Alaska Missions in New York City yesterday, it became apparent that the several

home missionary agencies at work in that territory are not now ready, due to traditional ecclesiastical backgrounds, buttressed by divergent theological viewpoints and interpretations, to take so advanced a step in Christian progress as the merging of our Protestant home missionary activities in that pioneer field would seem to imply. The representatives of only three evangelical church bodies (Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian) were inclined to seriously consider such a movement at this time. However, the disuussion was characterized by a wholesome spirit of mutual consideration and closer cooperative service, plus certain reallocations of responsibility in the interest of more compact denominational fields of activity, were suggested as both feasible and practical.

"In the matter of genuine church comity and readiness to make reasonable concessions in the interest of economy and efficiency, reliable records reveal the fact that the Methodist Episcopal Church is as ready to travel the second mile toward actual Christian unity, as any other accredited ecclesiastical organization in his country.

"Following a personal conference with Secretary Montgomery of the Presbyterian Board, next week, I am hoping to be ready to present certain specific proposals, contemplating several re-adjustments with the Presbyterian Church, on a mutually satisfactory and equitable give and take basis, to our own Committee on Alaska for special consideration."

Executive Committee Meeting - October 16, 1930

"Alaska - Supplementing last month's preliminary report on negotiations contemplating a reallocation of Methodist and Presbyterian home missionary responsibilities in the territory of Alaska, another substantial step in administrative economy and efficiency, I am happy to report positive progress. The following tentative agreement, endorsed by the Presbyterian and Methodist home mission board secretaries, the Bishop of the Portland Area, the general administrative officers of our Woman's Home Missionary Society and your Special Committee on Alaska Missions will challenge your consideration:

"Conditioned by mutual guarantees that every essential interest identified with work to be relinquished by either denomination will be adequately conserved and all vital forms of current Christian activity continued, plus a mutually satisfactory adjustment of the property equities involved, Methodism is to withdraw from Nome, eight days distant from Seward, our nearest missionary center; also from Juneau, where Presbyterianism has a self-supporting English church and Methodism a struggling mission. In exchange therefore, the Presbyterians are to release their English church and withdraw from Anchorage, north of and easily accessible from Seward; also, to transfer to us their Native church in Ketchikan and withdraw from that important center, where Methodism has a practically self-supporting English church.

"Nome is the port of entry for Point Barrow and the region round about, where extensive Presbyterian home missionary activities are fostered. Anchorage, at the head of Cook Inlet, would serve as an effective base and make accessible to Methodist missionary service, at a comparatively modest investment of home mission funds and personnel, a proportionately large and desperately needy section, in which practically nothing worth while is being done toward the social and spiritual enrichment of home and community life.

"Should it be found that the above mentioned proposals, which I trust you may be inclined to approve, are within the realm of possibility and agreeable to our respective local constituencies in Alaska, it is my judgment that we shall have recorded exemplary progress in behalf of genuine church comity and the conservation of personal as well as of material missionary resources, besides increasing the likelihood of more effective service. An interdenominational commission, representing the several communions at work in Alaska, plans to visit that territory, next summer, with the hope of consummating these and certain other adjustments, in the interest of a more cooperative program of Christian ministry in Alaska."

Executive Committee Meeting - May 21, 1931

Executive Committee Meeting - May 21, 1931

"ALASKA - On pages 49 and 50 of our Annual Composite Report, November 24-26, 1930 is the following statement covering certain proposals on our part and endorsed by all of the regular Methodist Episcopal agencies involved, looking toward a reallocation of Methodist and Presbyterian missionary responsibilities in Alaska, in the hope of assuring to these denominations a more economical and effective administration of their respective home missionary tasks in that territory,

ALASKA

"At a September seventeenth meeting of the Interdenominational Commission on Alaska Missions held in New York City, your Corresponding Secretary presumed to propose consideration of the feasibility of an early unification of evangelical missionary enterprises in that territory. There was a wholesome discussion characterized by mutual appreciation and an evident desire to cultivate closer cooperative relationships; but it soon became apparent that the various Protestant home mission agencies at work in Alaska are not now ready, due largely to traditional ecclesiastical backgrounds and divergent theological viewpoints, to take such a stride in Christian progress as the merging of our Protestant missionary units in that pioneer field would seem to imply. The representatives of only three evangelical church bodies (Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian) were inclined seriously to consider the proposal at this time. However, at a later luncheon conference in the interest of possible reallocations of Presbyterian and Methodist missionary responsibility in Alaska, the secretaries of those two denominational boards prepared the following tentative agreement, another step in administrative economy and efficiency endorsed by Bishop Titus Lowe of the Portland Area, the General Administrative Officers of the Methodist Woman's Home Missionary Society, and the Executive Committee of our Board of Home Missions and Church Extension:

"Conditioned by mutual guarantees that every essential interest identified

with work to be relinquished by either denomination will be adequately conserved and all vital forms of current Christian activity continued, plus a mutually satisfactory adjustment of the property equities involved, Methodism is to withdraw from Nome, eight days distant from Seward, our nearest missionary center; also, from Juneau, where Presbyterianism has a self-supporting English church and Methodism a struggling mission. In exchange, therefore, the Presbyterians are to release their English church and withdraw from Anchorage, north of and easily accesible from Seward; also to transfer to us their native church in Ketchikan and withdraw from that important center where Methodism has a practically self-supporting English church.

"Nome, where we have a federated white church and where our Woman's Society conducts a hospital and native church, is the port of entry for Point Barrow and the contiguous territory, where extensive Presbyterian home missionary activities are fostered. Anchorage, at the head of Cook Inlet, would serve as an effective base and make accessible to Methodist missionary service at a comparatively modest investment of home mission funds and personnel, a proportionately large and desperately needy section in which practically nothing worth while is being done toward the social and spiritual enrichment of home and community life. We now await reports of action by the Presbyterian administrative bodies directly concerned.

"Despite cordial endorsements of the above mentioned proposals by the general Administrative Officers of the Presbyterian National Board of Missions and the North American Home Missions Congress, held in Washington, D. C., December 1-5, 1930, the collective protest of certain Presbyterial leaders in Alaska, based on a contention that there is now no serious overlapping or interdenominational competition and that the time for such a movement, however desirable otherwise, is inopportune, has resulted in the following communication on the subject, submitted May 20, 1931:

ALASKA TRANSFERS

"Immediately upon the receipt of Dr. Kohlstedt's offer to transfer certain work

in Alaska, as the administrative officer of the Board charged with the interests of the churches, I took up the matter with the two Presbyteries involved. The transfers proposed are located at Nome, Anchorage, Juneau and Ketchikan. The latter two lie in the territory of the Presbytery of Alaska, and the former in the Presbytery of Yukon. Under the Presbyterian form of government the Presbytery is supreme in all matters affecting churches and transfers, and the transfer of a Presbyterian church can only be made by the vote of the Presbytery of which it is a part. In conformity with these conditions I took up the matter with the leaders of the two Presbyteries.

"First of all let me state that all of the leaders there expressly and implicitly stated their appreciation of Dr. Kohlstedt's proposition. If nothing else has been accomplished, it is certain that already there is a deepened appreciation and understanding of our mutual problems. This is all to the gain. However, in each case after a serious discussion of the issues involved our workers in Alaska stated their reaction. I think I can summarize their points of view.

I - As they see it, the time is not ripe for such transfers for the following reasons:

1 - In none of these fields is there any serious overlapping.

2 - At Nome for some years there has been an ideal situation. The Methodists have had the responsibility for all of the native work, and the white work has been federated between them and the Congregationalists.

3 - At Ketchikan, which is a rapidly growing city, there is no competition that calls for remedial action. The native work is looked after mainly by the Presbyterians. There is also an Episcopalian native church. The work amongst the whites is cared for by the Methodists and Lutherans. A movement sometime ago on the part of a zealous Seattle pastor to establish a white Presbyterian church in Ketchikan was turned down by the Presbytery.

4 - The situation at Juneau is also satisfactory. The pppulation is predominately white. There are four white churches at work in a population of 5,000; namely, Presbyterians, Methodists, Lutherans and Episcopalians.

II - Over a year ago our Board decided to study its objectives, and in accordance with this decision appointed committees to study every form of the work in which it is engaged. Some of these committees have already reported. Other reports will be made in due time. The Committee on Alaska reported at the Annual Meeting of the Board in April, pointing out the very large cost involved in carrying on our medical work at Barrow. This work was established years ago, in order mainly to get access for the gospel among the Eskimo peoples. The Board feels that this object has been accomplished; consequently it has decided to surrender the hospital work at Barrow to the government as soon as the government may be willing to take it over.

There was another purpose in the mind of the Board when this recommendation was adopted, and that is that being freed from the medical work our Board within its resources would be able more vigorously to prosecute the work of evangelization of the Eskimos who live in the great hinterland lying east of Barrow and extending as far eastward as the international boundary line.

III - All of the men to whom this matter was referred stated that in their judgment such a transfer would be inopportune at the present time for the reason that our Board has a declining income. For the last six years our budget has been trimmed annually. This downward revision has come to the point where it is not possible to sustain properly all of the work for which the Board is responsible.

IV - The hope is expressed that this is not the final chapter in the relationships which have been thus set up. In the meantime, we desire the closest cooperation possible, hoping that through these cooperative understandings and approaches the time may speedily come when there will be a united Church of Christ in Alaska.

Andrew J. Montgomery, Director Town and Country Dept.,
Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

"Under these circumstances we have no recourse except regretfully to suspend further negotiations relative to this matter, at least for the present."

Copy

May 20, 1931

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Andrew J. Montgomery
Board of Nation Missions of the Presbyterian Church

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON ALASKA OF HOME MISSIONS COUNCIL AND COUNCIL OF WOMEN
Wednesday, April 6, 1933, Room 610, 105 E. 22nd St. N.Y. 2:30 p.m.

Present: Rev. E. D. Kohlstedt, chairman; Rev. S. H. Gapp, Rev. E.M. Halliday, Rev. J. M. Somerndike, Miss E. R. Voss, Rev. W.R. King.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Dr. Gapp.

The minutes of the meeting held January 9th, 1933 were read.

Annual Meeting Actions

The following actions taken by the Annual Meeting on Alaska were considered:

> We recommend that the various denominational boards and societies engaged in work in Alaska be asked to take steps toward a cooperative movement as far as possible, in order that the whole area may be more effectively cultivated.
>
> To this end, we recommend that a small commission be appointed, without any financial involvement, to make a thorough study of the field.

It was the judgment of the committee that it would not be wise to plan for a visitation to Alaska for the present on account of financial reasons.

Reindeer Situation

The reindeer situation in Alaska was discussed at length.
VOTED that Dr. Kohlstedt and Dr. King be asked to interview Mr. Baldwin, a large stockholder in the Lomen Reindeer Corporation, upon the reindeer matter.

It was agreed to ask Mr. Matthew K. Sniffen of the Indian Rights Association to arrange a conference at Washington for members of the committee to meet with the Secretary of the Interior upon the Alaskan situation. April 21 or April 25 were suggested as possible dates.

Allocation of territory

Upon request of Dr. Kohlstedt, executive secretary of the Methodist Episcopal Board of Home Missions and Church Extension, it was VOTED to allocate to the Methodist Episcopal Church, in addition to the present functioning Methodist Episcopal centers in Alaska, the Cook Inlet and Alaska peninsula regions extending southwest from the mouth of Cook Inlet and Seldovia, with the exception of Kodiak Island, already allocated to the Northern Baptist denomination and other points already occupied by other denominations.

The committee adjourned.

W. R. King, secretary of the meeting

NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION

DR. STUART PRITCHARD ..... *President*
DR. CHARLES J. HATFIELD ..... *Secretary*
COLLIER PLATT ..... *Treasurer*

DR. KENDALL EMERSON ..... *Managing Director*
F. D. HOPKINS ..... *Executive Secretary*
S. M. SHARPE ..... *Business Manager*
DR. H. E. KLEINSCHMIDT ..... *Director, Health Education*
P. P. JACOBS, PH.D. ..... *Director, Publications and Extension*
LOUISE STRACHAN ..... *Director, Child Health Education*
JESSAMINE S. WHITNEY ..... *Statistician*
C. L. NEWCOMB ..... *Director, Seal Sale*
A. SCHAEFFER, JR. ..... *Director, Publicity*

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SEAL SALE

50 WEST 50TH STREET, N. Y. C.
~~130 7th Avenue, N.Y.C.~~

June 25, 1931

Reverend J. M. Somerndike
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

I enclose herewith a report of our luncheon conference on June 22nd with regard to the tuberculosis and public health problems in Alaska.

I am asking Dr. King to secure for me a complete list of all the missionaries of the various boards working in Alaska. I should appreciate it if, in addition, you would let me have the names and addresses of any other interested people who might be helpful to us either as leaders in community organization or as prospective buyers of a dollar's worth of seals or more. I am thinking not only of people in your own immediate circle but also of business men, professional men, women's group leaders and other types of leaders whom we might interest in our program.

With deep appreciation of your interest, I beg to remain

Very sincerely yours

Philip P. Jacobs, Ph.D.
Director, Publications and Extension

nep

REPORT OF CONFERENCE ON ALASKA

Held at the Gramercy Park Hotel
June 22, 1934

At the request of Mr. Jacobs and in cooperation with Dr. Wm. H. King, executive secretary of the Home Missions Council, a group was called together on June 22nd to discuss Alaska from the point of view of tuberculosis and public health. Those present were:

Reverend Ed. D. Kohlstedt, representing the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Reverend J. M. Somerndike

Dr. Wm. R. King

Miss Edna R. Voss, representing the Women's Group of the Presbyterian Board.

Miss Gertrude de Clercq, representing the Women's Groups of the Baptist Board.

Dr. J. G. Townsend, Director of Health, U.S. Office of Indian Affairs.

Paul W. Gordon, director of education in Alaska for the U.S. Office of Indian Affairs.

Dr. Kendall Emerson, National Tuberculosis Association.

Mr. Philip P. Jacobs, National Tuberculosis Association.

Mr. Jacobs explained the purpose of the meeting, namely, to discuss the need for developing some form of organization to promote tuberculosis and public health work in Alaska. He pointed out the seriousness of the problem quoting from the report by Dr. F. S. Fellows in the U.S. Public Health Report for March 2, 1934, to the effect that the native tuberculosis death rate at the present time was 665 per 100,000 as contrasted with the white death rate from tuberculosis of 56 per 100,000.

Representatives of the Alaska Committee of the Home Missions Council through Dr. Kohlstedt, the chairman, expressed keen interest in the problem and unqualifiedly pledged their support to anything we might undertake. The suggestion that we organize an Alaska Committee or Association to carry on a Christmas Seal sale and then later to develop a permanent piece of work, met with general approval. It was generally agreed that the two immediate outstanding projects to be pushed were the need for additional institutional care and the need for promotion of health education through the schools. Mr. Gordon offered the facilities of the schools under his direction for this latter purpose. Everyone felt that if the entire group would unite with local representatives from Alaska in petitioning Congress,

additional beds for the tuberculous might be secured.

A suggestion was made to the effect that if possible, a plan be worked out whereby people in the United States, outside of Alaska, who wished to do so might, through the Christmas seal sale, contribute supplementary funds for the Alaskan work. This is a proposition to be carefully considered particularly with reference to the north western states. Miss Voss suggested that possibly the women's groups of the different boards might be interested in undertaking special efforts in the promotion of this work in Alaska. It was agreed that supplementary funds, in addition to those raised in Alaska, would have to be secured to carry on the work there.

Dr. Kohlstedt requested that Mr. Jacobs send him a statement on the whole tuberculosis question and the proposed plan which he might submit for formal vote to the Alaska committee.

In the morning preceding the luncheon, Mr. Jacobs had a conference with Dr. Townsend and Mr. Gordon at which time they went into the whole Alaska situation and gave Mr. Jacobs some valuable information about the territory. Both Dr. Townsend and Mr. Gordon suggested that if the National Tuberculosis Association could secure $2,000. to employ a good tuberculosis nurse, she would be a valuable educational and supervisory workers in connection with the work being done by the Indian Service. The Indian Service might then be able to pay her travel expenses.

Mr. Jacobs is to write to each member of the group and to request from them information regarding names of people who might be usefull. Mr. Gordon will furnish a complete list of the teachers under his direction. The various mission boards represented will supply us with names of missionaries and other workers and each member of the committee agreed to send in whatever names he thought might be useful.

- - - - - - - - -

mcp

June
27th
1924

Rev. Philip P. Jacobs, Ph.D.,
50 West 50th Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Doctor Jacobs:

Thank you very much for your note of June 25th, enclosing a report of our conference on Alaska, which was held last Friday in the Treasury Park Hotel.

I am heartily in sympathy with the plans which we discussed and I shall be glad to do everything possible to assist in the successful promotion of the work of your Association in Alaska. It occurs to me that the people who are best able to give you the names of business men, professional men, women's group leaders, and others living in Alaska who might be interested in this program, would be our missionaries who are stationed at different points in Alaska. The names that they would give you would be carefully selected. I would like to suggest, therefore, that when you receive the list of these missionaries from Dr. King, a note be sent to each of them requesting such names and addresses.

With best wishes, I am

Faithfully yours,

J:B:BH

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ALASKA

The Committee on Alaska met at four P. M. on January 7th with the following present: Drs. King, Somnerdyke, Dawber, Mrs. Goode, Miss Voss and . The Committee adjourned to meet at nine A. M. January 9th.

The Committee met at nine o'clock, January 9th with the following present: Drs. Halliday, Somnerdyke and Dawber representing Dr. Kohlstedt.

The Committee discussed the several resolutions that have been presented from time to time in regard to possible comity and cooperation in Alaska and, in the light of all the facts available, the following resolutions were adopted:

First - That we arrange to collect all data regarding the work of each denomination and in connection with the same that a map shall be prepared setting forth the location of the several projects of the denominations and that a very careful study then be made of complete religious work now being carried on. That this should also have regard to the institutional work and carry with it an appraisal of the same.

Second - That we also take steps to gather together all the information available as to the conditions that obtain in Alaska in regard to the general life of the people and in particular as to the several problems that are now on the horizon as a result of recent or pending legislation.

Third - That as soon as possible we commit ourselves to a definite comity program such as would be adaptable to the work in Alaska.

Fourth - We also believe that there are many possibilities for closer cooperation and much value in the correlation of certain types of work that could be carried on as a common cause. That would include publicity, promotion, certain types of supervision and the merging of work at particular points. With this in mind, it will be possible to use a common name for these correlated tasks such as the Protestant Missions in Alaska.

Secretary

TELEPHONE GRAMERCY 5-3475

HOME MISSIONS COUNCIL

AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL BODY OF HOME MISSIONS BOARDS AND SOCIETIES OF THE FOLLOWING DENOMINATIONS

NATIONAL BAPTIST
NORTHERN BAPTIST
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
CONGREGATIONAL-CHRISTIAN
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL

EVANGELICAL
EVANGELICAL SYNOD OF N. A.
FRIENDS
UNITED LUTHERAN
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION

METHODIST EPISCOPAL
METHODIST EPISCOPAL, SOUTH
METHODIST PROTESTANT
AMERICAN MORAVIAN
PRESBYTERIAN, U. S. OF A.
PRESBYTERIAN, U. S.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN OF NORTH AMERICA
CHRISTIAN REFORMED
REFORMED IN AMERICA
REFORMED IN THE U. S.
UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
UNITED OF CANADA
AMERICAN SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION

NATIONAL OFFICE: 105 EAST 22nd STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

ERNEST M. HALLIDAY, D.D., *President*
ROBERT A. HUTCHISON, D.D., *Vice-President*
J. J. BRAUN, B.D., *Recording Secretary*
WILLIAM R. KING, D.D., *Executive Secretary*
A. M. BEHRENS, *Treasurer-Office Secretary*

February 4th, 1935

My dear Dr. Somerndike:

Attached you will find the 1935 membership of the Committee on Alaska.

Each year we request the constituent groups to nominate representatives on committees in which their board or society is interested, and the attached list represents the appointments made by constituent boards and societies for 1935.

At the January Annual Meeting the recommendations of your committee as listed on the attached sheet were approved.

Yours sincerely,

W. R. King
Executive Secretary

P.S. We also attach recommendations made in your committee's report on Alaska education, which were received and approved at the Annual Meeting.

COMMITTEE ON ALASKA

Membership 1935

John M. Somerndike, Chairman, Pres.U.S.A., 156 Fifth Ave,, New York
H. D. Bollinger, Meth. Epis., 740 Rush St., Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. S. Chance, Friends, 611 So. Vine St., Wichita, Kans.

Gertrude S. deClercq, No.Bapt., 152 Madison Ave., New York

Mrs. V. F. DeVinny, Meth. Episc., 200 So. Fairview Ave., St.Paul, Minn.

Mrs. D. D. Forsyth, Meth. Episc., 123 Waverly Pl., New York

S. H. Gapp, Moravian, 69 W. Church St., Bethlehem, Pa.

Mrs. W. H. C. Goode, Meth.Episc., Whitby Pl., Sidney, Ohio

Ernest M. Halliday, Cong., 287 Fourth Ave., New York

Edward D. Kohlstedt, Meth. Episc., 1701 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Titus Lowe, Meth. Epis., 604 Oddfellows Bldg., Portland, Ore.

Mrs. J. H. Race, Meth. Epis., 316 W. 79th St., New York

John C. Seegers, Un. Luth., Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pa.

John F. Seibert, Un. Luth., 860 N. Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Edna R. Voss, Presby. U.S.A., 156 Fifth Ave., New York

John W, Wood, Epis., 281 Fourth Ave., New York

Doubtless you have read the newspaper reports from Washington with reference to the Matanuska Valley colonization project. The plan calls for the settlement of two hundred families from the northern part of the States of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin in the Matanuska Valley area of Alaska, where with the assistance of the Government homes will be erected for these families and the land cleared for agricultural development.

Our Presbyterian minister at Anchorage has been in touch with the situation for the past few months, and as this colonization project is located within a comparatively short distance of Anchorage, it is tributary to our work at that point, and our Presbytery of Yukon has expressed its intention to provide the necessary ministry for these new settlers.

After conference with the Government representatives, we have arranged for the setting aside of a tract for a church building, for the erection of which our Board will provide the funds in due time. We will designate Rev. B. J. Bingle, who has been serving our church at Cordova and who has special qualifications for ministering to people under pioneer conditions, to be on hand to welcome these families when they arrive. The first contingent is to arrive the latter part of April. Mr. Bingle will be released from his responsibilities at Cordova and another worker appointed in his place, so that he may be free to devote his entire time to ministry among the new settlers.

In conferring with Dr. King about the matter and informing him that since this area is tributary to our work at Anchorage we have felt the responsibility for providing a ministry for it, he suggested that I call a meeting of the Alaska Committee to confer with reference to it. I do not want to go to the expense of calling the Committee together immediately, but it would seem to be advisable for us to have a meeting before the Joint Administrative Committee of the Home Missions Council holds its meeting on May 9th.

Would it be possible for you to attend a meeting of the Alaska Committee in New York on Monday, April 28th? The meeting would be held on Monday, April 29th, at 2:00 P.M. in the office of Dr. King, Fourth Avenue and 22nd Street, New York, N. Y. This seems to be the most convenient date for such a meeting.

Awaiting your reply, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

TELEPHONE GRAMERCY 5-3475

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J. J. BRAUN, B.D., *Recording Secretary*
WILLIAM R. KING, D.D., *Executive Secretary*
A. M. BEHRENS, *Treasurer-Office Secretary*

February 27, 1935.

Cancelled for Monday Apl 29 in N.Y.

Dr. J. M. Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

You are doubtless aware that the Joint Administrative Committee of the Home Missions Councils will hold a meeting at the Parkside Hotel, New York, on Thursday, May 9th. I wonder whether the Committee on Alaska could have a report to make at that time as to the feasibility of common promotion for all the Alaska work, and of some sort of unified supervision.

I have a feeling that, if the work that our different evangelical communions are engaged in could be brought together in a common piece of promotional literature, with illustrations, and furnished in sufficient quantities for rather general distribution, it might stimulate a good deal of interest and financial support. Perhaps we could get enough extra money so we could afford to hire a good general fellowship service man who, while he would have no official authority, would be able to render very worth while assistance in connecting the various pieces of work up with one another and making everybody involved feel an interest in the solidarity of the whole. This is somewhat the basis on which our Congregational State Conferences work. The self-supporting churches are independent; the superintendents have no authority over them, but they are often able to help a lot.

I should be glad to have a word from you as to your thought about this whole problem.

Yours very cordially,

Ernest M. Halliday

EMH/E

March
1st
1925

Rev. Ernest M. Halliday, D.D.,
105 East 22nd St.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Doctor Halliday:

Your letter of February 27th has been received during Dr. Somerndike's absence from the office, but we shall be glad to bring it to his attention upon his return, about March 15th - at which time you no doubt will hear from him.

Very sincerely yours,

BH

Secretary to Dr. Somerndike.

March
11th
1925

Rev. Ernest M. Halliday, D.D.,
105 East 22nd St.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Doctor Halliday:

Thank you very much for the suggestion with reference to our Alaska work, which I find in your letter of February 27th. I am planning to have a meeting of the Alaska Committee before the 9th of May.

I am not very enthusiastic, as you can readily understand, regarding the successful working out of the plans which I know you cherish for the bringing of the work of all our evangelical denominations in Alaska, into closer relation. Since the annual meeting of the Home Missions Council, I have gone into the history of the situation and I find that under my predecessor, Dr. Montgomery, a strong movement was made to bring the Methodist, Congregational, and Presbyterian work together in Alaska on a common basis. Dr. Montgomery favored it on behalf of our Presbyterian group, but when the matter was presented to our Alaska Presbytery, which is the local ecclesiastical unit and which as you know under our Presbyterian system has the final word with reference to both administration and program, they vetoed it in a very positive way. I do not think that sufficient time has elapsed since that effort was made, nor have there been enough changes in the personnel of our Presbyterian Alaska work, to justify any hope that another movement in that direction now would meet with any better success. I shall keep your suggestion in mind, however, for further consideration.

With kind regards, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

The Church Extension Boards

OF THE CONGREGATIONAL AND CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

THE CONGREGATIONAL HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY
THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH BUILDING SOCIETY
THE CONGREGATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL EXTENSION SOCIETY

287 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

ERNEST M. HALLIDAY, D.D.,
GENERAL SECRETARY

WILLIAM T. BOULT,
TREASURER

FRANK F. MOORE,
ASSISTANT TREASURER

March 13, 1935.

Rev. J. M. Somerndike, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Thank you for your letter of March 11th concerning the Alaska situation. Am glad to know that you are planning a meeting of the committee about the 9th of May.

I recognize the difficulties which are involved in the attitude of the Alaska Presbytery but am hopeful that some plan may be worked out in the way of joint promotion and joint leadership service which they would approve. In that way there would be no disturbance of their administration and I think it would be possible to work up a good deal more interest in all the denominations concerned. It might be, for example, that our own Congregational churches would be moved to support the Alaska program more generously if they felt they were contributing to a wider program than that which is involved in our prosent projects.

In accordance with your allowance we have adapted your Children's Day dramatization to our requirements by making a few changes and are planning to send it out under the title "The Bible on Powder River". It happens that we have work in Powder River County, Montana, which is not far from the Wyoming field which Miss Willcox fixed upon as the location of "Owl Creek".

Yours very sincerely,

Ernest M. Halliday

EMH/E

TELEPHONE GRAMERCY 5-3475

HOME MISSIONS COUNCIL

AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL BODY OF HOME MISSIONS BOARDS AND SOCIETIES OF THE FOLLOWING DENOMINATIONS

NATIONAL BAPTIST
NORTHERN BAPTIST
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
CONGREGATIONAL-CHRISTIAN
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL

EVANGELICAL
EVANGELICAL SYNOD OF N. A.
FRIENDS
UNITED LUTHERAN
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION

METHODIST EPISCOPAL
METHODIST EPISCOPAL, SOUTH
METHODIST PROTESTANT
AMERICAN MORAVIAN
PRESBYTERIAN, U. S. OF A.
PRESBYTERIAN, U. S.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN OF NORTH AMERICA
CHRISTIAN REFORMED
REFORMED IN AMERICA
REFORMED IN THE U. S.
UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
UNITED OF CANADA
AMERICAN SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION

NATIONAL OFFICE: 105 EAST 22nd STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

ERNEST M. HALLIDAY, D.D., *President*
ROBERT A. HUTCHISON, D.D., *Vice-President*
J. J. BRAUN, B.D., *Recording Secretary*
WILLIAM R. KING, D.D., *Executive Secretary*
A. M. BEHRENS, *Treasurer-Office Secretary*

April 5th, 1935

Dr. J. M. Somerndike,

156 Fifth Avenue.

My dear Dr. Somerndike:

I have just returned to the office after a lengthy series of conferences in the West and find your letter of March 19th concerning your desire to preempt the Matanuska Valley area to your Board.

You will remember that you were named chairman of the Committee on Alaska of the Councils at our January Annual Meeting and I think this interesting Government plan to transport families to Alaska should be taken up with the members of your Committee. I do not doubt they would be willing to allocate this area to your Board, but in view of the resolutions passed in the January Annual Meeting concerning the need of a comity program in Alaska, it might be more satisfactory if this matter were discussed in the committee. I must again leave New York tomorrow and will return on April 30th. Perhaps we could call the committee together in May.

I had a very fine trip to the Pacific Coast and found a great deal of heartening evidence of the desire for comity and cooperation on the part of the denominational executives.

Yours sincerely,

W. R. King

Executive Secretary

TELEPHONE GRAMERCY 5-3475

HOME MISSIONS COUNCIL

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NATIONAL BAPTIST
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WILLIAM R. KING, D.D., *Executive Secretary*
A. M. BEHRENS, *Treasurer-Office Secretary*

April 8th, 1935

Dr.J. M. Somerndike,

156 Fifth Avenue.

My dear Dr.Somerndike:

Attached you will find list of names and addresses of the 1935 members of the joint Committee on Alaska.

Yours sincerely,

HOME MISSIONS COUNCIL

A. M. Behrens

COMMITTEE ON ALASKA

of the Home Missions Counciland Council of Women for Home Missions

Membership for 1935

John M. Somerndike, Chairman, Presby.U.S.A. 156 5th Ave.

a Rev H. D. Bollinger, Meth. Epis, 740 Rush St., Chicago, Ill.

Mrs. S. Chance, Friends, 611 So.Vine St. Wichita, Kans.

Mrs. V. F. DeVinney, Meth. Epis. 200 So. Fairview Ave. St. Paul, Minn.

Mrs. D. D. Forsyth, Meth. Epis. 123 Waverley Pl. New York

a Rev. S. H. Gapp, Moravian, 69 W. Church St., Bethlehem, Pa.

Mrs. W. H. C, Goode, Meth. Epis. Whitly Pl. Sidney, Ohio

a Rev. Ernest M. Halliday, Congr., 287 Fourth Ave. N. Y.

Rev. Edward D. Kohlstedt, Meth. Epis., 1701 Arch St. Philadelphia, Pa.

Rev Titus Lowe, Meth. Epis., 604 Oddfellows Bldg. Portland, Ore.

Mrs. J. H. Race, Meth. Epis. 316 W. 79th St. New York

Rev John C. Seegers, Un. Luth., Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pa.

Rev. John F. Seibert, Un. Luth., 860 N. Wabash Ave. Chicago, Ill.

Miss Edna R. Voss, Presby.U.S.A. 156 Fifth Avenue

Rev John W. Wood, Epis. 281 4th Ave. New York

April 11th, 1935.

Mrs. W. H. C. Goode,
Whitly Place,
Sidney, Ohio.

Dear Mrs. Goode:

Doubtless you have read the newspaper reports from Washington with reference to the Matanuska Valley colonization project. The plan calls for the settlement of two hundred families from the northern part of the States of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin in the Matanuska Valley area of Alaska, where with the assistance of the Government homes will be erected for these families and the land cleared for agricultural development.

Our Presbyterian minister at Anchorage has been in touch with the situation for the past few months, and as this colonization project is located within a comparatively short distance of Anchorage, it is tributary to our work at that point, and our Presbytery of Yukon has expressed its intention to provide the necessary ministry for these new settlers.

After conference with the Government representatives, we have arranged for the setting aside of a tract for a church building, for the erection of which our Board will provide the funds in due time. We have designated Rev. B. J. Bingle, who has been serving our church at Cordova and who has special qualifications for ministering to people under pioneer conditions, to be on hand to welcome these families when they arrive. The first contingent is to arrive the latter part of April. Mr. Bingle will be released from his responsibilities at Cordova and another worker appointed in his place, so that he may be free to devote his entire time to ministry among the new settlers.

In conferring with Dr. King about the matter and informing him that since this area is tributary to our work at Anchorage we have felt the responsibility for providing a ministry for it, he suggested that our plans for this project be reported to the Alaska Committee. It would seem to be advisable for us to have a meeting before the Joint Administrative Committee of the Home Missions Council holds its meeting on May 9th. I am proposing therefore that we hold a meeting of this Committee on Monday, April 22nd, at 2:00 p.m. in the office of Dr. King, Fourth Avenue and 22nd Street, New York, N.Y. This seems to be the most convenient date for such a meeting. I hope you can arrange to be present.

Awaiting your reply, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

4/12/35

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Your letter of April eleventh has been received in the absence of Dr. Kohlstedt who is in South Dakota. I shall bring it to his attention when he returns next week.

Very sincerely yours,

B. E. Gerhart

Secretary to Dr. Kohlstedt

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
APR 12
530PM
1935

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Dr. J. M. Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

JOHN WILSON WOOD, D.C.L.
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
THE REV. A. B. PARSON
ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

SECRETARY FOR LATIN AMERICA

J. G. VAUGHAN, M.D., MEDICAL ADVISER
(150 Fifth Avenue, New York)

CABLE ADDRESS: "FENALONG NEW YORK"
CODES: MISSIONS, WESTERN UNION AND BENTLEY

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CHURCH MISSIONS HOUSE
281 FOURTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y.
Telephone: GRAMERCY 5-3012

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

CORPORATE TITLE
THE DOMESTIC & FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE SPIRIT OF MISSIONS
ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
LEWIS B. FRANKLIN, TREASURER

IN REPLY TO THIS LETTER,
PLEASE REFER TO ITS DATE

April 12, 1935

Rev. J. M. Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Somerndike:

Replying to your kind letter of April 11, I will try to be present at the meeting of the Alaska Committee on April 22.

As I think you know, our Church has had a mission in Anchorage, with a resident clergyman, for nearly twenty years. The present incumbent, the Rev. Warren R. Penn, covers a rather wide area in that region Matanuska is a part of his field. I presume he has already made arrangements to minister to people coming into that region who may be prepared to receive the pastoral care of the Episcopal Church.

Sincerely yours,

John W. Wood

JWW:M

P.S. May I point out that I am not entitled to the prefix, "Reverend."

The Church Extension Boards

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WILLIAM T. BOULT,
TREASURER

FRANK F. MOORE,
ASSISTANT TREASURER

April 12, 1935.

Rev. J. M. Somerndike, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

I greatly regret that I will not be able to attend the meeting of the Alaska Committee scheduled for April 22nd as I expect to be in Florida.

Yours very cordially,

Ernest M. Halliday

EMH/E

DIRECTORS:
The Rev. S. H. Gapp, Ph.D., D.D.,
President;
The Rev. J. E. Weinland, D.D.,
Vice-President;
The Rt. Rev. Karl A. Mueller, D.D.
Fred B. Hartmann
John E. Leibfried
Frank H. Martin
J. Seward Titlow
Fred T. Beckel
Wesley R. Masten
The Rev. C. D. Kreider,
Recording Secretary.
The Rev. Paul de Schweinitz, D.D.,
Treasurer.

THE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED BRETHREN
FOR PROPAGATING THE GOSPEL
AMONG THE HEATHEN

Organized 1745: Reorganized 1787: Incorporated 1788

(The incorporated missionary society of the Moravian Church in America)

The oldest incorporated Protestant Foreign Missionary Society
in the United States

Incorporated by the Act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania
☞ Wednesday, February 27th, 1788.

THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE:
69 WEST CHURCH STREET,
BETHLEHEM, PA.,
U. S. A.

Telephone:
BETHLEHEM 1487

April 13,1935.

Mr.J.M. Somerndike,
New York City.

My dear Mr.Somerndike:-

In reply tp your letter of the 11th, I am sorry to say that I will probably not be able tò attend the meeting you have called for April 22 of the Alaska Committee of the Home Missions Council.

My opinion, however, is that your Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church is the logical Board to take charge spiritually of the Government's proposed settlement in the Matanuska Valley.

Very truly yours,

S. H. Gapp.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FREDERICK CARL EISELEN
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

H. D. BOLLINGER
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WESLEY FOUNDATIONS

740 RUSH STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

April 16, 1935

Rev. J.M. Somerdike
156 - 5th Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Somerdike:-

In reply to your letter of April 11 I may say that it will be impossible for me to be in a meeting in New York City, Monday, April 22. I will be on the road at that time heading for Amherst, Massachusetts, where I am to be in a meeting that evening. My schedule is arranged consecutively until Sunday, April 28 at which time I plan to be in New York City.

It is a matter of sincere regret to me that I cannot be present for this meeting but my schedule, as usual, is arranged well in advance.

Very sincerely,

H.D. Bollinger

HDB/JG

H.D. Bollinger
Assistant Secretary

April 26th, 1935

Rev. Mark A. Dawber, D.D.
1701 Arch St.
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Dawber:

I thought you would be interested in the enclosed copy of the Minutes of the meeting of our Alaska Committee. Dr. Kohlstedt was not present.

I think that if we wisely and tactfully pursue the matter of setting up an association of evangelical churches in Alaska, we shall be making far more rapid progress in the direction of unifying work in that field than was made under the former attempt of driving a plan of union roughshod into the whole situation. The Alaska brethren are going to be a little suspicious and cautious about any plans that are proposed looking toward unifying the work, but if we can get them to liking one another and disarm their suspicions of one another, I think that will be the first important step.

I shall confer with Dr. King and Dr. Halliday regarding the possibility of producing a comprehensive booklet describing all Protestant work in Alaska.

Why doesn't Dr. Kohlstedt retire from the Alaska Committee in your favor?

With warm regards, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:FDS

M I N U T E S

of the Meeting of the Alaska Committee
of the Home Missions Council

****

The meeting of the Alaska Committee of the Home Missions Council was held on April 22nd at 2:00 P.M. in Dr. King's office.

Those present were: J. M. Somerndike, Chairman
Mrs. Forsythe
Mrs. Race

Excuses were received from a number of members of the Committee who were unable to be present.

The Chairman requested the Committee's concurrence in the action of the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. in assigning Rev. B. J. Bingle in charge of the Presbyterian Mission station at Cordova to the task of providing the ministry for the U. S. Government colonization project in the Matanuska Valley. This assignment was made on the ground that the Matanuska Valley area being contiguous to our work at Anchorage is allocated to the Presbyterian Church, and feeling a sense of responsibility for the new families who will be moving into this region, the Board of National Missions felt under obligations to provide a worker who would minister to these new settlers.

After discussion the Committee voted to concur in the action that had been taken. It is understood that if, and when, a church organization is effected among these new settlers it will be a community church. It was agreed by the Committee that all matters relative to the support of such a church under interdenominational auspices should be left for future consideration to be determined largely by future developments under Mr. Bingle's ministry.

The Committee considered various plans for the unifying of all the Protestant work in Alaska under common objectives, promotion, etc., and after discussion it was agreed that the Chairman should be authorized to canvass, with the representatives of other denominations interested in work in Alaska, the possibilities of organizing in Alaska an association of evangelical churches, looking toward a joint conference of the ministers and missionaries representing the various denominations in Alaska in the spring of 1936.

The Committee expressed its approval of the proposal to prepare a comprehensive statement describing the work of all the Protestant denominations in Alaska for publicity purposes which will be available for the use of all the denominations in promoting interest in Alaska missions.

On motion, the Committee adjourned.

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On motion, the Committee adjourned.

MINUTES

of the Meeting of the Alaska Committee
of the Home Missions Council

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Mrs. Race

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On motion, the Committee adjourned.

TELEPHONE GRAMERCY 5-3475

HOME MISSIONS COUNCIL

AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL BODY OF HOME MISSIONS BOARDS AND SOCIETIES OF THE FOLLOWING DENOMINATIONS

NATIONAL BAPTIST
NORTHERN BAPTIST
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
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DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL

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UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
UNITED OF CANADA
AMERICAN SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION

NATIONAL OFFICE: 105 EAST 22nd STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

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ROBERT A. HUTCHISON, D.D., *Vice-President*
J. J. BRAUN, B.D., *Recording Secretary*
WILLIAM R. KING, D.D., *Executive Secretary*
A. M. BEHRENS, *Treasurer-Office Secretary*

April 9th, 1936

Dr. John M. Somerndike
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Somerndike:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the 1936 membership list for the Committee on Alaska of which you are the Chairman.

Yours sincerely,

W R King

Executive Secretary

COMMITTEE ON ALASKA

Membership 1936

John M. Somerndike, Chairman, PresbyU.S.A., 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City

H. D. Bollinger, Meth. Epis., 740 Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois

Mrs. S. Chance, Friends, 611 So. Vine Street, Wichita, Kansas

Gertrude S. deClercq, No. Bapt., 152 Madison Avenue, New York City

Mrs. V. F. DeVinny, Meth. Epis., 200 So. Fairview Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota

Mrs. D. D. Forsyth, Meth. Epis., 123 Waverly Place, New York City

S. H. Gapp, Moravian, 69 W. Church Street, Bethlehem, Pa.

Mrs. W. H. C. Goode, Meth. Epis., Whitby Place, Sidney, Ohio

Ernest M. Halliday, Cong.-Chris., 287 Fourth Avenue, New York City

H. F. Heuer, Un. Lutheran, 52 E. Sedgwick Street, Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pa.

Edward D. Kohlstedt, Meth. Epis., 1701 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Titus Lowe, Meth. Epis., 604 Oddfellows Building, Portland, Oregon

C. T. Murray, Nat. Bapt., 1101 P Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

Mrs. J. H. Rade, Meth. Epis., 316 W. 79th Street, New York City

Edna R. Voss, Presby.U.S.A., 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City

John W. Wood, Epis., 281 Fourth Avenue, New York City

C
O
P
Y

Juneau, Alaska,
Oct. 27, 1936.

Dear Doctor Somerndike:

With reference to the renewed activity of the Methodists in Juneau, you will remember hearing our Mr. Troast say that he had just awarded contracts in the amount of over $10,000, and when another elder asked where the money was to come from to pay for the improvements he said: "I guess from the Mission Board". It is commonly reported that their Board has granted them $10,000, and it is probable that the community did not give them very much in their drive of a few months ago.

Not only the Northern Light Church but also most of the community in and out of the churches would agree that it is a purely competitive work that the Methodists would be doing. Approximately two years ago they withdrew their man because they had no congregation or support worth mention; then about a year ago last spring they wired that they were sending another man, after they had been closed about nine months, I think. I understand that the few people they could get together for a meeting instructed one of their number to wire the Board not to send a man, but that they sent him anyway and he has been here now a year and a few months.

When the man reached Juneau, there was nobody to meet him, and he came straight to my house to see me, saying that the nearer he got to Juneau the more he heard from Methodist people that the Presbyterians had this field, and he wanted to know if he had been tricked by his own Church. I told him that so far as I could see it was anybody's country, but that history and my own judgment agreed that there certainly was no NEED for them, with all the churches and program we already had. If they have a legal or technical right to be here, they certainly have no moral right, for it is absolutely in violation of the SPIRIT of every agreement which the denominations have been trying to consummate in the interests of economy, comity, Christian fellowship, and sound common sense. I am told that every cent of his support comes from the Board, so that what little he collects here must go to pay running expenses. It adds emphasis to the sorry spectacle of about a dozen Protestant groups begging and BLEEDING THE MERCHANTS and calling each other names, trying to keep their doors open; while our Catholic friends have one small but well-filled church and a great big HOSPITAL that serves the whole country round. Then as an escape mechanism, and to fool ourselves or the people, we will go through the motions of having a Preaching Mission next month - which to me is pure hypocricy!

Now, in keeping with yours of the 15th, asking about "the attitude of the Northern Light Church", we will continue as we have been doing and hoe our own row. But my guess is that when the Methodists finish their improvements and the re-dedication which no doubt will be held, it will not be long until Methodists who have united with our church in the past for various reasons, will be actively solicited to leave us and go there - and I say that because of methods now being used. However, my conviction is that you should make no move to stop them, although letting the Comity Committee know about the situation might be proper - if our friends do not twist the story and tell Juneau we tried to stop them. We are confident of our own position and spirit, although we realize the struggle will be greater.

Very truly yours,

JOHN A. GLASSE

EDWARD D. KOHLSTEDT, D.D.
PRESIDENT

MRS. MILLARD L. ROBINSON
PRESIDENT

HOME MISSIONS COUNCIL
AND
COUNCIL OF WOMEN FOR HOME MISSIONS
297 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.
GRamercy 5-3475
INTERDENOMINATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE HOME MISSION BOARDS AND SOCIETIES

WILLIAM R. KING, D.D.
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

EDITH E. LOWRY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

January 5, 1938

TO MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ALASKA:

Dear Friend:

There will be a meeting of this committee on Monday, January 10th at 4:00 p.m. in the Prince George Hotel, Madison Avenue and 28th Street, New York City.

Attached you will find a memorandum of the possible report of this joint committee which is submitted for the consideration of the committee members.

I trust you may find it possible to meet with us on Monday as stated above.

Yours sincerely,

ERNEST M. HALLIDAY

Chairman of Committee

Memorandum covering possible report of the Joint Committee on Alaska submitted for the consideration of the Committee by the Chairman.

* * * * * * * *

The Joint Committee on Alaska consists of fourteen members - Dr. H. D. Bollinger, Miss Gertrude S. deClerq, Dr. S. H. Gapp, Mrs. W. H. C. Goode, Dr. A. M. Knudsen, Dr. Edward D. Kohlstedt, Bishop Titus Lowe, Dr. C. F. Murray, Dr. J. M. Somerndike, Miss Edna R. Voss, Dr. A. W. Wasson, Mrs. A. K. Wing, Dr. John W. Wood, with Dr. Ernest M. Halliday as Chairman.

The committee's report to the joint meeting of the two Councils at Asbury Park in January, 1937, which was duly adopted, was as follows:

1. To sponsor two or three group gatherings in Alaska, during June and July, 1938.
2. That Dr. Halliday, Dr. Somerndike and Dr. Kohlstedt be members of the sub-committee on arrangements for the proposed interdenominational meetings and institute program in Alaska.
3. That the secretary of the committee secure data from the several constituent communions, engaged in missionary work in Alaska, that will enable the committee to prepare an up-to-date, composite picture of the present work, and also to conduct a survey of unoccupied fields and unmet missionary needs in that territory, for consideration in the conferences to be held in 1938.
4. That the Auk Lake community, about twelve miles from Juneau, be allocated to the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., as an out-station appointment related to its Northern Light Church in Juneau.

The data referred to in paragraph 3 has been assembled by the Home Missions Council office and is available for the use of the committee. It would seem, however, that before we go much further in planning a joint visitation in 1938, it would be well for the representatives of all interested Boards to have a heart to heart conference as to the possibility of effective general cooperation. If the situation is such that such cooperation is impossible, it is a fair question whether the time and expense involved in a joint visitation next summer would be justified. In other words, it seems quite possible that whatever cooperation can be attained at the present juncture, could be arranged without such a trip. Various representatives have visited Alaska fairly recently and are cognizant of the situation. Limited cooperation could be worked out on the basis of present knowledge. If, however, such plans could be sufficiently comprehensive and immensely worth while for a joint committee to visit Alaska this summer for the sake of better acquaintance with the situation and personnel and with the definite purpose of arousing enthusiasm for a combined program among the local constituency.

The Committee on Alaska would, therefore, respectively suggest a re-consideration of last year's action and the adoption of a new resolution to the effect that the carrying out of a joint Alaskan visitation in 1938 should rest upon the likelihood that the interested Boards will be able and willing to put a cooperative program into practice.

A possible means of arriving at a unified field program would be afforded by the United Christian Council of Alaska recently organized. This organization was legally incorporated in the state of Illinois, July 10, 1937. To date its Board of Directors consists of representatives of the Methodist and Congregational Boards and of the Methakatla Mission. The Board membership is, however, open to representatives from other Boards and their presence and cooperation will be heartily welcomed. It is expected that the United Christian Council will be able to act as a joint agent for the participating denominations on matters specifically committed to it without supplanting the Boards or absorbing their work. It is felt that such a corporation, if representative of the activities of the various Boards, would be able to present to their combined constituencies a more forceful and appealing picture of the needs of this great area; of what is being done, and what remains to be done. Such a presentation should contribute to increased financial support and greater interest. To date no further steps have been taken. The United Christian Council simply stands ready to be of service in any and all matters which may be definitely committed to its care.

The Joint Committee on Alaska Missions met on Monday, January 10th, 1938, in the Prince George Hotel, New York City, with Dr. Ernest M. Halliday in the Chair. Present: the Chairman, Dr. Torbett, Miss Alice Brimson, Miss Edna R. Voss, Dr. A. M. Knudson, Dr. J. M. Somerndike, with Dr. Kohlstedt and Dr. Dawber, ex-officio.

Dr. Somerndike was elected Secretary of the Committee.

The Chairman presented to the Committee a tentative report which he had prepared for presentation to the Home Missions Council. After extended discussion, it was voted to recommend to the Council:

1. That the proposed series of interdenominational conferences of Alaska missionaries and Board representatives authorized by the Home Missions Council in its action last year to be held during the summer of 1938, be postponed until the summer of 1939.

2. That the Committee endeavor during this year to hold several meetings, if practicable, for the purpose of studying the possibilities of cooperative effort in Alaska on the part of the constituent Boards, in relation to:-

   (a) unoccupied areas which are in need of missionary service;
   (b) the social and health problems affecting the native and white population;
   (c) ministries to scattered groups among whom churches cannot be maintained; and
   (d) the development of an adequate program directed toward the Christian cultivation and training of young people.

3. That a sub-committee consisting of Dr. Torbett, Dr. Somerndike, and Miss Brimson be requested to draft for adoption by the Council, a strong pronouncement representing the attitude of the evangelical bodies cooperating in the Home Missions Council, toward the necessity of action by the Federal Government in cooperation with Alaska missionaries, to place restrictions upon the sale and use of liquor among the Alaskan native tribes.

The meeting adjourned.

J. M. Somerndike,
Secretary.

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The meeting adjourned.

J. M. Somerndike,
Secretary.

Palmer, Alaska
May 5 - 1938.

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 - Fifth Ave.
New York. N.Y.

My Dear Dr. Somerndike!

I am turning this letter over to Rev. Youel to look over the mail as he arrives in Seattle. You will note that we have just completed the 1st Interdenominational conference which is the result of your suggestion to me while with us two years ago. I feel you can congratulate yourself on your getting something started that turned out so nicely. There is the greatest harmony & brotherly feeling with all the workers on the field. We have formulated an organization - carefully steering away from the name of the Methodist - Congregational name. As you read the minutes, our Constitution & resolutions you will note the above.

You will see also some suggestions - I feel our brethren (Methodist) are very critical of their Denominational leadership but they can see we need the greatest cooperation of all the head men at the top or we won't go far, even in this endeavor. - They expect a little reaction for leaving this conference. - I know you will do all you can to keep it going. - I am elected 1st President - hope I can do this work rightly. Let me know your reactions. Rev B J Bingle

Minutes of the first annual meeting of the United Protestant Conference of Southwest Alaska May 1938

This conference convened at Seward, Alaska May 3rd 1938 by common concent of those present to formulate an organization for the purpose of carrying on a cooperative, intensified movement for Christ in Southwestern Alaska. We met at the Jesse Lee Home at 10.30 A.M. May 3rd. The following ministers and missionaries were present.

Rev. Chas. T. Hatten	Methodist	Seward
Rev. A.J.Clements	Methodist	Seward
Mrs. Chas. T. Hatten	Methodist	Seward
Rev. Wm. A McAdoo,	Presbyterian	Anchorage
Rev. Ralph Peterson	Presbyterian	Cordova
Rev. B.J.Bingle	Presbyterian	Palmer
Mrs. A. J. Clements	Methodist	Seward (Visitor.)

It was suggested by Re. Peterson of Cordova that Rev. Hatten be made chairman and Rev. Bingle of Palmer Secretary since they had initiated the movement to get the group together. After a few remarks the suggestion was accepted by common consent and Rev. Hatten took the chair.

Meeting was opened by prayer by the chairman.

As Rev. Peterson had been asked to speak of church and Mission work inthe espective areas defined by the National Home Missions Council he spoke to this topic dwelling mostly, on the work in Prince William Sound and Copper River Areas. Rev. Hatten then supplemented the discourse bytelling of the work along the Aleutian Islands andthe big need of work to be done in the Bristol Bay section. Certain resolutions were naturally presented which were refered to the resolutions committee.

Meeting adjourned at 12 noon . Closed with prayer by Mrs. Hatten.

Tuesday 1.30 P.M.

The afternoon session opened with prayer by Rev. McAdoo.

The conference then again took up the discussion of the Aleutian Islands Mission Work. A letter was read from Rev. King from Unalaska. This letter stressed the following points:-

1. Handicap of work o account of the great distances.

2. One third of the men of Unalaska go each summer to Bristol Bay and the Pribilof Islands for fishing and sealing, and expresses a hope that he might go into these fields with them,possibly this summer.

3. Mention is made of the 466 Acres of land belonging to the mission and suggests possible uses of it.

4. Some of the Jesse Lee Home Young fold and others are learning to come to the Mission for help and guidance.

5. He stresses the deplorable situation as regards liquor. Deliberate attempts on the part of ceratin liquor dealers to deceive the Court, as to the will of the people in the matter of liquor licenses.

As a result of our conference together so far a certain type of permanent organization was suggested and Rev. Clements, Rev. McAdoo, and Rev. Bingle was made a committee of three to draw up a plan for organization and present the same at Wednesday morning's meeting.

Meeting closed by prayer by Mrs. Clements.

The meeting on Wednesday morning opened at 10.00 oclock with others who were eligible in attendance.

Those presentwere:-

Rev. Clements	Seward,	Miss Coger	Seward
Rev. Hatten,	Seward,	Rev. McAdoo	Anchorage
Mrs. Hatten	Seward	Rev. B.J.Bingle	Palmer
Miss Bonney	Seward	Rev. Peterson	Cordova
Miss Geijsbeek	Seward		
Miss Knapp	Seward		
Miss Ard	Seward		
Miss Thornton	Seward		

The meeting opened with prayer by Rev. McAdoo of Anchorage.

The minutes of yesterdays meeting were read and approved.

The chairman then called for the report of the constitution Committee. Rev. Clements, Rev. Bingle and Rev. McAdoo. Rev. Clements gave the report. After the constitution was read as a whole and discussed it was taken up Seri- Item for adoption.

I. Name Motion made by McAdoo and carried that the name United Protestant Conference of Southwest Alaska be adopted.

II. Purpose. Article II dealing with purpose of the organization was made by Bingle andcarried.

III. Membership. Motion was made by Mrs. Hatten and carried to adopt article III on membership.

IV. Officers. Motion made by Peterson and carried to adopt article IV on officers.

V. Committees. Motion by Miss Geijsbeek carried to adopt article V on committees.

VI. Rules or Procedure. Motion made by Peterson and carried to adopt Artic e VI on Rules of Procedure.

VII. Quorum. Motion made by Bingle carried to adopt Article VII on Quorum.

Recess at 12 Noon to meet at 1.30 PM.

#3.

Meeting opened at 1.40 P.M. Rev. Hatten in the chair. Rev. McAdoo lead in prayer. All were present as at morning session except Miss Ard.

Motion made by Rev. C lements to adopt the constitution as a whole carried.

After discussion on by-Laws Rev. Bingle moved that the matter of total and specific territory allocations be refered to the Resolution committee.

Motion made by Mrs. Hatten and carried that all members pay $1.00 per year to defray expenses.

Thefollowing paid:- Rev. B.J.Bingle, Rev. Hatten, Mrs. Hatten, Rec. Clements, Rev. Peterson, Rev. McAdoo, Miss Knapp, Miss Geijsbeek, Miss Coger, Miss Ard.

Election of officers was the next item of business. Nomination was made by Peterson that Rev. Bingle of Palmer be the president for the coming year. Motion made and passed that nominations be closed and that Rev. Bingle be elected, and it was done unanimously .

Motion made by Rev. Clements was passedthat Rev. Riley, Baptist of Kodiak be made Vice president for the coming year.

Rev. Clements wasthen nominated for Secretary -Treasurer and motion was made by McAdoo and passed that nominations be closed and Rev. Clements be elected .

At this time the subject of a summer conference for young people was brough up . It was the hearty desire of all that such a conference be made possible for our young people and the Rev. Peterson made a motion to empower the executive committee to make provisions if possible for the same. Motion carried.

Letters were read from Mrs. Riley of Kodiak and Mrs. Alice Brimson, Executive Secretary of the Woman's American Baptist Home Missionary Society telling of their plans on Kodiak Island and expressing the desire for our friendly cooperation andthat they were grateful for the new ##Era in which denominations work together.

The resolutions were read by Rev. Peterson and unanimously adopted. (See resolutions)

Motion made that we recess until 8.00 oclock.

Meeting comes to order at 7.50 P.M.

Rev. Peterson presented further resolutions which were adopted.

#4.

Motion by Rev. Peterson that By -Law No I relative to membership be adopted. Carried.

Minutes were then read and approved.

The Rev. Bingle was conducted to the chair and by that simple ceremony he was installed into the office of the United Protestant Conference of Southwest Alaska .

Motion was made and carried to adjourn to the call of the Executive committee after prayer by Miss Knapp.

Chas. T. Hatten ,Chairman B.J. Bingle, Secretary

Constitution and By-Laws of the United Protestant
Conference
of
South West Alaska.

Article I

The name of this organization shall be known as the United Protestant Conference of South West Alaska.

Article II

The Purpose of this conference is:

For Christian Fellowship of the ministers and missionaries of the co-operating churches in South West Alaska.

To study the work and needs of each respective area that the work may be intensified and be made more effective.

To formulate a co-operative policy an and program in order to raise the standards of the protestant work in Alaska.

To recommend to the respective denominational boards specific plans and programs to meet specific needs in Alaska.

Article III

Those eligible to membership in this conference shall be the Pastors, Missionaries and heads of respective organizations and institutions, of the Churches co-operating under the Home Missions Comity agreements in effect in South West Alaska.

Article IV

The officers of this conference shall consist of a President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasure, and that the term of office shall be for one year.

Article V

There shall be an executive committee composed of the officers of th the conference.

The duties of this committee shall be; to set time and place and pl plan the program of the conference meeting; to transact business between sessions of the conference; conduct ballots by mail to decide issues when necessary; and to make recommendations to the annual meeting of the conference.

Article VI

A Quorum shall consist of seven members three of which must reside outside the pl ce of meeting.

Article VII

Amendments may be made by a 2/3 vote after all registered delegates hav e been notified by mail of proposed changed before sessions of Conf rence.

Article VIII

Prodedure shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

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By-Laws

I

The members of the United Protest Conference shall consist of thos eligible for membership who have signed the constitution and By-Laws or a statement certifying that they have read them and are in hearty agreement with the purposes expressed and agree to attend sessions of the Conference when possible, and have paid the annual dues of $1.00. Only members who have shown an active interest per the above statement shall shall be entitled to vote.

UNITED PROTESTANT CONFERENCE OF SOUTHWESTERN ALASKA.

In Initial session at Jesse Lee Home, Seward, Alaska May 3-4 1938.

RESOLUTIONS.

WHEREAS, the United Protestant Conference of Southwest Alaska is assembled for the purpose of Interdominational Cooperation and Fellowship , be it hereby resolved:-

I. That we recognize the large place of the Jesse Lee Home in Alaska Mission work inasmuch as it touches all of southwest Alaska and much of the new work being established by the Methodists along the Alaskan Peninsula , Shumigan Islands and Bristol Bay is building on the foundations already made through the Home, therefore we recommend the complete cooperation of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension .

2. That the Alaska Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church "1377-2-1 be made effective by being called in Annual Session (1218- 1) (1936 Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church.) by the Bishop of the Portland Area.

3. That a Field Worker be appointed for said Mission .

4. That the Methodist Mission Boat be stationed at Seward to complete the cooperation between the Jesse Lee Home and the Methodist Churches from Valdez to Unalaska.

5. That a Presbyterian Missionary at Large be appointed.

6. That the closest cooperation possible be maintained between all Mission Schools, Hospitals , Homes and the local pastors .

7. That the Territories in this area be divided among the respective Denominations as follows:-

A. Methodist ~~Joint operation with the Congregational Church at Valdez including Ellamar~~, all the Kenai Peninsula South of ~~Portage~~ Turnagain Arm, The Alaska South and west of Tyonek, including Tyonek, together with that portion of the Third Division adjacent to Bristol Bay ~~and~~ the Aleution and Shumigan Islands and joint operation with the Congregational Church at Valdez and Ellamar.

~~B~~. B. Presbyterian all the area East of Ellamar to the boundry of the Third Division North to the divide of the Yukon and Copper River watershed, all the area north of Turnagain Arm tributary to the Alaska Railroad to Fairbanks and the Area along the Steese Highway to the Yukon River.

C. Baptist Kodiak and Afognak Islands.

D. Congregational:- Joint operation withthe Methodists at Valdez and Ellamar

E. It is recommended that each denomination listed be responsible for the territory suggested but that any agreement made in regards to National Comity by the Home Missions Council be strictly adhered to .

8. That the Mission Boards of Cooperating churches be requested to aid in travel to and from the meeting of the conference.

9. That the Boards of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches be requested to aid financially and otherwise in the conduct of a young peoples summer conference of institute in this area.

10. That the Temperance situation in Alaska needs the attention of the great Mission Boards of the churches . We strive almost in vain to uplift the people through Missionary efforts if we fail to grapple with the liquor situation. We are looking to our Executive Committee to lead us in Coordination all the forces of the Home Mission Council and the Boards of the Churches and all other interested organizations.

11. We express our gratitude for the spirit of Christian Cooperation among the pastors and missionaries on the field and for the fine fellowship achieved at this conference. We are chagrined to admit our sorrow and disappointment that this same spirit of fellowship and co-operation does not always seem to exist between our Boards and we pray, that because of the heartbreaking needs of the field that all concerned forget past differences and move forward together as one in hope and fellowship for Christian Alaska.

12. That we express ouf gratitude to the staff of Jesse Lee Home and th the Rev. A.J.Clements of Seward for their splendid hospitality which has made our stay here so delightful.

Note :- As the Rev. Riley, Baptist minister at Kodiak was not able to be with us we did not include a resolution concerning their Mission work to the Baptist Board . We hope and pray however, that their plans for intensive work might be immeadiately realized for the whole Kodiak Island group.

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May 1938

Minutes of the First Annual Meeting of the United Protestant Conference of Southwest Alaska

This conference convened at Seward, Alaska, May 3rd, 1938, by common consent of those present to formulate an organization for the purpose of carrying on a cooperative, intensified movement for Christ in Southwestern Alaska. We met at the Jesse Lee Home at 10:30 A.M., May 3rd. The following ministers and missionaries were present:

Rev. Chas. T. Hatten	Methodist	Seward
Rev. A. J. Clements	"	"
Mrs. Chas. T. Hatten	"	"
Rev. Wm. A. McAdoo	Presbyterian	Anchorage
Rev. Ralph Peterson	"	Cordova
Rev. B. J. Bingle	"	Palmer
Mrs. A. J. Clements	Methodist	Seward (visitor)

It was suggested by Rev. Peterson of Cordova that Rev. Hatten be made Chairman and Rev. Bingle of Palmer, Secretary, since they had initiated the movement to get the group together. After a few remarks, the suggestion was accepted by common consent and Rev. Hatten took the chair.

Meeting was opened by prayer by the Chairman.

As Rev. Peterson had been asked to speak of church and mission work in the respective areas defined by the National Home Missions Council, he spoke on this topic, dwelling mostly on the work in the Prince William Sound and Copper River areas. Rev. Hatten then supplemented the discourse by telling of the work along the Aleutian Islands and the big need of work to be done in the Bristol Bay section. Certain resolutions were naturally presented which were referred to the Resolution Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 12 noon. Closed with prayer by Mrs. Hatten.

Tuesday - 1:30 P.M. Afternoon session opened with prayer by Rev. McAdoo.

The conference then again took up the discussion of the Aleutian Islands mission work. A letter was read from Rev. King of Unalaska. This letter stressed the following points:-

1. Handicap of work on account of the great distances.
2. One-third of the men of Unalaska go each summer to Bristol Bay and the Pribilof Islands for fishing and sealing. Mr. King expresses the hope that he might go into these fields with them, possibly this summer.
3. Mention is made of the 466 acres of land belonging to the mission and suggests possible uses of it.
4. Some of the Jesse Lee Home young folk and others are learning to come to the mission for help and guidance.
5. Mr. King stresses the deplorable situation as regards liquor. Deliberate attempts on the part of certain liquor dealers to deceive the Court as to the will of the people in the matter of liquor licenses.

As a result of our conference together, so far, a certain type of permanent organization was suggested and Rev. Clements, Rev. McAdoo, and Rev. Bingle were made a committee of three to draw up a plan for organization and present the same at Wednesday morning's meeting.

Meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Clements.

The meeting on Wednesday morning opened at 10:00 o'clock with others who were eligible in attendance. Those present were:-

Rev. Clements	Seward
Rev. Hatten	Seward
Mrs. Hatten	"
Miss Bonney	"
Miss Geijsbeek	"
Miss Knapp	"
Miss Ard	"
Miss Thornton	"
Miss Coger	"
Rev. McAdoo	Anchorage
Rev. Bingle	Palmer
Rev. Peterson	Cordova

The meeting opened with prayer by Rev. McAdoo of Anchorage.

The minutes of yesterday's meeting were read and approved.

The Chairman then called for the report of the Constitution Committee: Rev. Clements, Rev. Bingle, and Rev. McAdoo. Rev. Clements gave the report. After the constitution was read as a whole and discussed, it was taken up seri-item for adoption:

1. Name - Motion made by McAdoo and carried that the name, UNITED PROTESTANT CONFERENCE OF SOUTHWEST ALASKA, be adopted.
2. Purpose - Article II dealing with purpose of the organization was made by Bingle and carried.
3. Membership - Motion was made by Mrs. Hatten and carried to adopt Article III on membership.
4. Officers - Motion was made by Peterson and carried to adopt Article IV on officers.
5. Committees - Motion by Miss Geijsbeek carried to adopt Article V on committees.
6. Rules of Procedure - Motion made by Peterson and carried to adopt Article VI on rules of procedure.
7. Quorum - Motion made by Bingle carried to adopt Article VII on quorum.

Recess at 12 noon to meet at 1:30 P.M.

Meeting opened at 1:40 P.M. Rev. Hatten in the chair. Rev. McAdoo lead in prayer. All were present as at morning session except Miss Ard.

Motion made by Rev. Clements to adopt the constitution as a whole, carried.

After discussion on by-laws, Rev. Bingle moved that the matter of total and specific territory allocations be referred to the Resolution Committee.

Motion made by Mrs. Hatten and carried that all members pay $1.00 per year to defray expenses. The following paid: Rev. Bingle, Rev. Hatten, Mrs. Hatten, Rev. Clements, Rev. Peterson, Rev. McAdoo, Miss Knapp, Miss Geijsbeek, Miss Coger, Miss Ard.

Election of officers was the next item of business. Nomination was made by Peterson that Rev. Bingle of Palmer be the president for the coming year.

Motion made and passed that nominations be closed and that Rev. Bingle be elected, and it was done unanimously.

Motion made by Rev. Clements was passed that Rev. Riley, Baptist, of Kodiak, be made vice-president for the coming year.

Rev. Clements was then nominated for secretary-treasurer and motion was made by Rev. McAdoo and passed that nominations be closed and Rev. Clements be elected.

At this time the subject of a summer conference for young people was brought up. It was the hearty desire of all that such a conference be made possible for our young people and the Rev. Peterson made a motion to empower the Executive Committee to make provisions if possible for the same. Motion carried.

Letters were read from Mrs. Riley of Kodiak and Mrs. Alice Brimson, Executive Secretary of the Women's American Baptist Home Missionary Society, telling of their plans on Kodiak Island and expressing the desire for our friendly cooperation and that they were grateful for the new era in which denominations work together.

The resolutions were read by Rev. Peterson and unanimously adopted. (See resolutions) Motion made that we recess until 8:00 o'clock.

Meeting comes to order at 7:50 P. M.

Rev. Peterson presented further resolutions which were adopted.

Motion by Rev. Peterson that By-Law #1 relative to membership be adopted. Carried.

Minutes were then read and approved.

Rev. Bingle was conducted to the chair and by that simple ceremony he was installed into the office of the United Protestant Conference of Southwest Alaska.

Motion was made and carried to adjourn to the call of the Executive Committee after prayer by Miss Knapp.

B. J. Bingle, Secretary.
Chas. T. Hatten, Chairman.

Constitution and By-Laws
of the United Protestant Conference of South West Alaska

Article I - The name of this organisation shall be known as the United Protestant Conference of South West Alaska.

Article II - The Purpose of this conference is: for Christian fellowship of the ministers and missionaries of the cooperating churches in Southwest Alaska; to study the work and needs of each respective area that the work may be intensified and be made more effective; to formulate a cooperative policy and program in order to raise the standards of the Protestant work in Alaska; and to recommend to the respective denominational Boards specific plans and programs to meet specific needs in Alaska.

Article III - Those eligible to membership in this conference shall be the pastors, missionaries, and heads of respective organizations and institutions of the Churches cooperating under the home missions comity agreements in effect in Southwest Alaska.

Article IV - The officers of this conference shall consist of a President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer, and ~~that~~ the term of office shall be for one year.

Article V - There shall be an Executive Committee composed of the officers of the conference. The duties of this Committee shall be: to set the time and place and plan the program of the conference meeting; to transact business between sessions of the conference; to conduct ballots by mail in order to decide issues when necessary; and to make recommendations to the annual meeting of the conference.

Article VI - A quorum shall consist of seven members, three of which must reside outside the place of meeting.

Article VII - Amendments may be made by a 2/3 vote after all registered delegates have been notified by mail of proposed changes before sessions of the conference.

Article VIII - Procedure shall be governed by Roberts' Rules of Order.

By-Laws

1. The members of the United Protestant Conference of Southwest Alaska shall consist of those eligible for membership who have signed the Constitution and By-Laws or a statement certifying that they have read them and are in hearty agreement with the purposes expressed and agree to attend sessions of the Conference when possible, and have paid the annual dues of one dollar. Only members who have shown an active interest per the above statement shall be entitled to vote.

UNITED PROTESTANT CONFERENCE OF SOUTHWEST ALASKA in Initial session at Jesse Lee Home, Seward, Alaska, May 3 - 4, 1938.

RESOLUTIONS:

WHEREAS, the United Protestant Conference of Southwest Alaska is assembled for the purpose of interdenominational cooperation and fellowship, be it hereby resolved:

1. That we recognize the large place of the Jesse Lee Home in Alaska mission work inasmuch as it touches all of southwest Alaska and much of the new work being established by the Methodists along the Alaskan Peninsula, Shumigan Islands, and Bristol Bay (being built on the foundations already made through the Home), therefore we recommend the complete cooperation of the Women's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension.

2. That the Alaska Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church (1377-2-1) be made effective by being called in annual session (1218 - 1) (1936 Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church) by the Bishop of the Portland Area.

3. That a field worker be appointed for said Mission.

4. That the Methodist mission boat be stationed at Seward to complete the cooperation between the Jesse Lee Home and the Methodist churches from Valdez to Unalaska.

5. That a Presbyterian missionary-at-large be appointed.

6. That the closest cooperation possible be maintained between all mission schools, hospitals, homes, and the local pastors.

7. That the territories in this area be divided among the respective denominations as follows:-

   Methodist - all the Kenai Peninsula south of Turnagain Arm, Alaska south and west of Tyonek including Tyonek, together with that portion of the Third Division adjacent to Bristol Bay, the Aleutian and Shumigan Islands, and joint operation with the Congregational Church at Valdez and Ellamar.

   Presbyterian - all the area east of Ellamar to the boundary of the Third Division north to the divide of the Yukon and Copper River watershed; all the area north of Turnagain Arm tributary to the Alaska Railroad to Fairbanks, and the area along the Steese Highway to the Yukon River.

   Baptist - Kodiak and Afognak Islands.

   Congregational - joint operation with the Methodists at Valdez and Ellamar.

It is recommended that each denomination listed be responsible for the territory suggested, but that any agreement made in regards to National Comity by the Home Missions Council be strictly adhered to.

8. That the Mission Boards of cooperating churches be requested to aid in travel to and from the meeting of the conference.

9. That the Boards of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches be requested to aid financially and otherwise in the conduct of a young people's summer conference or institute in this area.

10. That the temperance situation in Alaska needs the attention of the great Mission Boards of the Churches. We strive almost in vain to uplift the people through missionary efforts if we fail to grapple with the liquor situation. We are looking to our Executive Committee to lead us in coordination with all the forces of the Home Missions Council and the Boards of the Churches and all other interested organizations.

11. We express our gratitude for the spirit of Christian cooperation among the pastors and missionaries on the field and for the fine fellowship achieved at this conference. We are chagrined to admit our sorrow and disappointment that this same spirit of fellowship and cooperation does not always seem to exist between our Boards, and we pray that because of the heartbreaking needs of the field that all concerned will forget past differences and move forward together as one in hope and fellowship for Christian Alaska.

12. That we express our gratitude to the staff of Jesse Lee Home and to the Rev. A. J. Clements of Seward, for their splendid hospitality which has made our stay here so delightful.

Note: As the Rev. Riley, Baptist minister at Kodiak, was not able to be with us, we did not include a resolution concerning their mission work to the Baptist Board. We hope and pray, however, that their plans for intensive work might be immediately realized for the whole Kodiak Island group.

Representatives of the denominations engaged in missionary work in the Territory of Alaska who have recently visited that field have reported to the Committee on Alaska Work the deplorable conditions which prevail throughout the Territory resulting from the unrestricted traffic in intoxicating liquor. The social and moral devastation that has been wrought particularly among the native population through excessive use of intoxicants since the repeal of the Prohibition Amendment is promoting the prevalence of social diseases, is disrupting family life, is increasing conditions of poverty, and threatens to destroy the progress that has been achieved during the past seventy years as the result of the persistent efforts of Christian missionaries to encourage total abstinence and the adoption of Christian social standards.

The representatives of the Church and of the Federal Government in Alaska are aware of the menace of the present situation and of the necessity for speedy relief. Because of the failure of the Government to enforce existing laws which were designed to protect the Indians in States and Territories from the indulgence in the use of intoxicants, and because of the exploitation of the natives by the representatives of the liquor traffic who encourage them to expend the money earned by toilsome labor as fishermen, in alcoholic debauches, the native tribes have appealed for the help of the Christian forces of the Nation.

In view of the serious nature of this situation in its effect upon the health and well-being of the native people of Alaska, the Home Missions Council, expressing the attitude of the mission boards of the evangelical denominations in America, urgently requests the Bureau of Indian Affairs which is responsible for the welfare of the native population in Alaska, to adopt such measures as may be effective in prohibiting the purchase and possession of intoxicating liquor by the natives of Alaska, in accordance with existing laws relative to the use of liquor among all Indian tribes within the jurisdiction of the United States Government.

We are encouraged to note that the question of enacting effective temperance

legislation occupied an important share of the attention of the Territorial Legislature at its last session. It is the desire of the Home Missions Council to strengthen the hands of the religious and social agencies and of industrial leaders in Alaska in their effort to influence the enactment of measures at the next session of the Territorial Lesiglature to control the sale and use of liquor and to introduce courses in temperance education into the territorial schools.

It is further recommended that the Secretary of the Home Missions Council, accompanied by such representatives of the cooperating mission boards as he may select, be authorized to bring this important matter to the personal attention of the Secretary of the Interior and of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and to convey our solicitude regarding this matter to the Territorial Governor and to the Territorial Legislature at an early date, and to adopt such measures as they may deem wise and proper, to enlist the interest and support of Christians of all faiths throughout the Nation in cooperation with the Christian people of Alaska, in preserving the native tribes from the moral and physical destruction with which they are threatened under the prevailing conditions, and to adopt effective measures of liquor control for the entire Territory.

Telephone GRamercy 5-3475

HOME MISSIONS COUNCIL

AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL BODY OF HOME MISSIONS BOARDS AND SOCIETIES OF THE FOLLOWING DENOMINATIONS

National Baptist	Evangelical	Methodist Episcopal	United Presbyterian of North America
Northern Baptist	Evangelical and Reformed	Methodist Episcopal, South	Christian Reformed
Church of the Brethren	Friends	Methodist Protestant	Reformed in America
Congregational-Christian	United Lutheran	American Moravian	United Brethren in Christ
Disciples of Christ	African Methodist Episcopal	Presbyterian, U. S. of A.	United Church of Canada
Protestant Episcopal	African Methodist Episcopal Zion	Presbyterian, U. S.	American Sunday School Union

NATIONAL OFFICE: 297 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Homer McMillan, D.D., *President*
George Pitt Beers, D.D., *Vice President*
J. J. Braun, B.D., *Recording Secretary*
James C. Gripp, *Treasurer*
Mark A. Dawber, *Executive Secretary*

November 29, 1939

TO MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ALASKA

Dear Friends:

We are enclosing herewith the minutes of the Joint Committee on Alaska meeting, held in Philadelphia, on November 17, 1939.

We are looking forward to the Annual Meeting of the Home Missions Councils, and trust that you are planning to be in Indianapolis, January 12-16, 1940.

Yours cordially,

Edith E. Lowry
Executive Secretary
Council of Women for Home Missions

Mark A. Dawber
Executive Secretary
Home Missions Council

MINUTES OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON ALASKA
Home Missions Council and Council of Women for Home Missions
11:00 a/m., November 17, 1939, 1701 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Present: Dr. E. D. Kohlstedt, Mrs. D. M. Collier, Dr. Everett B. King, Mrs. Oscar C. Schmidt, and Mark A. Dawber. The Reverend B. J. Bingle representing the United Protestant Conference of Southwest Alaska also attended the meeting.

Regrets were received from Miss Gertrude deClercq, Mrs. J.W. Downs, Dr. Grover C. Emmons, Dr. Ernest M. Halliday, Dr. Arthur M. Knudsen, Miss Edna R. Voss, Mrs. Augustus Trowbridge, and Miss Edith E. Lowry; also Mrs. W. H. C. Goode and Dr. John W. Wood.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and discussed. In this connection reports were made on the several items involved, such as arranging for a United Protestant Conference in Southwestern Alaska, the question of the enforcement of the liquor laws, and arrangements for a publication setting forth the joint interests.

Mr. Dawber presented a resume of the conference held in Washington, March 17, 1939, covering the matter of the liquor situation, after which the following resolution was adopted:

> The Committee would suggest the importance of a program of temperance education in Alaska, and requests the Executive Secretary of the Home Missions Council to secure information as to the material and arrange for its being made available to the Christian churches of Alaska; also, if possible to interest the several agencies responsible for temperance education in making some person available for a campaign in Alaska.

In the matter of the promotional leaflet, it was understood that the Secretary would try to secure from each of the boards that are doing work in Alaska the up-to-date information in regard to their projects, which shall be embodied in this leaflet, and, if possible, to have the same available for the Annual Meeting.

Mr. Bingle presented some important information in regard to the present situation in Alaska, and representing the United Protestant Conference of Southwest Alaska, especially requested consideration of the Joint Committee on the following matters:

(1) The possibility of having someone representing all the boards visit Alaska next year and meet with the United Protestant Conference of Southwest Alaska, arrange for a similar organization in southeastern Alaska, visit the annual meetings of the several denominations, and bring some inspiration representing the joint interests of all the agencies.

(2) To ask the mission boards to give consideration to the possibility of getting behind a joint ministry to the students at the University.

(3) To cooperate in providing a radio ministry that might represent the boards that are constituent to the Home Missions Council now doing work in Alaska.

He called attention particularly to the inroads which are now being made by the independent groups, some of which are deliberately fighting the denominational program, and pointed out the importance of the agencies now cooperating to put up a stronger program in order to meet the needs in Alaska.

After some discussion, it was suggested that the Executive Secretary of the Home Missions Council should try to arrange his schedule to visit Alaska the latter part of February and through March. Dr. King of the Presbyterian U.S.A. Board of National Missions stated that he anticipated going at about this time, and Mr. Bingle said that this was the most convenient time having regard to the program of the churches in Alaska.

In regard to provision for a University ministry on an interdenominational basis, the Executive Secretary was requested to make inquiry of the Boards of Education, of the denominations now members of this committee, as to their interest in this project, inasmuch as this was primarily a responsibility of the Boards of Education, and to report the results at the Annual Meeting.

In regard to the radio program, after discussion, this matter was referred to the Joint Committee on Promotion and Publicity, which is responsible for the consideration of radio programs in connection with the Home Missions Councils.

The situation at Kodiak was brought up for discussion, and Mr. Bingle was particularly concerned that someone should be appointed immediately in order to hold the situation while more permanent arrangements were made by the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society to serve this field. It was arranged that Mr. Bingle would return with Mr. Dawber to New York City and present this matter to the Baptist Home Mission board later in the day.

The meeting adjourned.

COMMITTEE ON ALASKA

2:30 p.m., Room 75 — 297 Fourth Ave., N. Y.

Present: Dr. Halliday, Chairman; Dr. Dawber, Mrs. Callister (proxy for Miss Keates), Miss deClercq, Miss Gladfelter, Dr. Everett King, Dr. Kohlstedt, and Mrs. Schmidt.

Regrets: Dr. Beers, Mrs. Goode, Dr. Knudsen, Mrs. Priolean, Dr. Thomas.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Chairman.

Dr. Dawber reported on a special meeting previously called because of actions of the Executive Committee: - the situation in Alaska as to the defense program, and the fact that some members of the Committee had been to Alaska. The action of the Executive Committee was read and it was explained that the matter came up in connection with the discussion of the rather loose relationship of several Committees to the Home Missions Council, such as those on Inter-Mountain Area; work among Spanish-Speaking people and the work in the Southern Mountain Area.

Dr. E. D. Kohlstedt told briefly of his trip to Alaska, made primarily in the interest of his own Board and not as a representative of the Home Missions Council. Besides his own Methodist Mission, he visited the one at Kodiak where the Baptists are carrying on very fine work. He went to Metlakahtla but purposely held no conferences on controversial matters. The Christian Church in Metlakahtla is sponsored by the Co-trustees of the William Duncan Trust; E. D. Kohlstedt (Methodist) Chairman; B. L. Myers (Presbyterian) Secretary; F. A. Wright, (Friends Fellowship) Treasurer. To illustrate how really interdenominational the work is, they employed a Congregational minister to serve as pastor of the Church.

Dr. King also told of his recent visit to Alaska. He had concluded, after visiting Metlakahtla, to making a definite recommendation: While the Council notes with appreciation, the cordial spirit existing between the two pastors, it recommends that the two churches cultivate cooperative activities for a definite period of time with the purpose of finally merging. Dr. King said, "Withdrawal of either denomination is not going to solve a difficult situation." Dr. Kohlstedt emphasized again the many ways in which there has been joint work, such as the Scout program, etc. He mentioned also that the Methodist pastor had recommended to several women of his congregation whose husbands are members of the Presbyterian Church, that they transfer their membership, in order to belong to the same church as their husbands. The Committee approved of having the Executive Secretary of the Council communicate with agencies involved in this situation: - the Co-trustees of the William Duncan Trust, and the Presbyterian Board of National Missions. It was further approved that the Executive Secretary send a letter to the two ministers, and express appreciation for the cooperation that has been achieved.

The Defense Situation: Dr. Dawber had been asked to get information as to plans of the U.S.O. and the Joint Commission on Defense Communities. The Commission referred back to the Alaska and the West Indies Committees the question as to their understanding. At the time of inquiry six weeks ago, the U.S.O. had no specific plans for Alaska. Reasonable provision is being made so far as the Chaplaincy is concerned. Dr. Dawber's statement was supplemented by statements by Dr. Kohlstedt and Dr. King. They mentioned government camps at Unalaska, Kodiak, Port Richardson, Seward, Homer (a secondary base) Fairbanks (air base), naval stations at Sitka, Winet Islands and a National Guard camp at Haines.

Dr. King said the U.S.O. seemed to be marking time. His Board had learned that the situation had been turned over to the Salvation Army at Sitka, a local citizen's committee to take some responsibility. Ketchikan was to be cared for by the Y.M.C.A. but so far, it is marking time.

Dr. Dawber said it was his clear understanding that the U.S.O. will not have responsibility for religious services as such, but would depend on local ministers and religious agencies. The U.S.O. does not provide buildings. Its chief responsibility is for social and welfare services.

Dr. King said that the situation in Alaska is tragic. Some of our finest young men are being sent there but nothing is being done for them. At Ketchikan beer parlors are crowded and there are blocks of red light districts. There is a law against the men associating with native girls but no wholesome recreation is provided for them. If the U.S.O. isn't going to do anything, that should be clearly understood. This is something that cannot be delayed.

VOTED that Dr. King, Dr. Frost, Dr. Dawber with the Commission on Defense Communities take up the situation with the U.S.O.

Dr. Kohlstedt said that his denomination was doing something for the men from Metlakahtla camps. In three of the Methodist centers the church has programs for them. Miss deClercq said that at Kodiak the Baptist Church has a program for the soldiers and they make use of the church home as a center of recreation. Mrs. Schmidt reported that the United Lutheran Church is planning to spend a considerable amount at Sitka for a community center to be used by the soldiers.

In answer to a question as to whether the natives are separated from the white people, it was explained that there are only a few natives in the military camps and so far as anyone in the Committee knew no race line was drawn. However, Dr. Kohlstedt said that race discrimination in Alaska is a clear-cut issue.

It was agreed that the question of responsibility for men in the camps needs to be emphasized and that the Alaska Committee should

Recommend that members of the Committee urge their denominations to assume responsibility for this service in Alaska.

It was felt that the committee which is appointed to take up the matter with the U.S.O. should apply all possible pressure to secure appropriations for buildings. Considering the amount contributed by church people to their funds, the U.S.O. should do this.

The necessity for allocation of responsibility by denominations was pointed out. It was felt that the Methodist might be responsible for Ketchikan, Unalaska, Seward and Homer. The Presbyterians for Fairbanks, Anchorage, Sitka and Haines, the United Lutherans for Juneau and the Baptists for Kodiak. It was pointed out that the Episcopalians should be approached as to the situation in Fairbanks.

VOTED that since two members of the Committee have recently visited Alaska and because of the deplorable conditions existing there, the committee ask Dr. Kohlstedt and Dr. King to prepare a statement setting forth clearly the need for immediate action and that this statement be sent with a letter by Dr. Dawber calling on the denominations for cooperation.

In connection with the discussion, Dr. Kohlstedt said that the living conditions in the Metlakahtla camps are absolutely primitive and inadequate and liquor interests are capitalizing on the situation.

Dr. Dawber raised the question as to what should be the relationship of the United Protestant Conference of Southwest Alaska to the Home Missions Council. In discussion of this, Dr. Kohlstedt emphasized the great need at this very critical time for more cooperative work especially in distant places like Alaska. His Board is committed to a united program in Alaska. The report of the Committee in 1938-39 made recommendations that were approved. Dr. Dawber read from the Annual Report this action. This report also recommended the organization of a protestant Conference of Southwest Alaska. This was never carried out because of the death of Dr. Sommerndike who was to go to Alaska for that purpose. Dr. King proposed that in the two cases where Episcopalians and Presbyterians have churches, Ketchikan and Sitka, that Episcopalians be responsible in Ketchikan and in Sitka the Presbyterians be responsible for the work. In Juneau, the Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Lutherans and Methodists have churches besides a Catholic Church. This is a community of about 6,000 and a competitive situation exists. Dr. Kohlstedt told something of the history of the situation in Juneau, so far as the Methodists are concerned. Agreed that Dr. Dawber should take up these situations with the people in the national boards involved.

Dr. Halliday spoke with enthusiasm of the possibility of our working toward some form of Federation such as has been discussed at several annual meetings. As one way of informing the church on what is being done in Alaska, he felt that there should be some graphic presentation of it. Dr. Dawber read from actions of the Annual Meetings, - 1938,1939 which showed clearly that this has been the intention.

Miss deClercq raised the question as to the relation of the United Christian Council of Alaska to the Alaska Committee of the Home Missions Council, - as to overlapping. In reply Dr. Dawber said there were not too many people at work in Alaska but that we should be thinking in terms of a parish with work done cooperatively, - not too many doing the same thing but with division of labor. As to Juneau, Dr. Kohlstedt felt that a united church there is an impossibility, until a merger of Evangelical missions in Alaska can become a reality. It was agreed that with regard to the necessity of closer cooperation in this situation, the Committee ask the office to try to arrange a conference with people involved to see what could be done, exploring particular ways of service that could be carried on together. It was recalled that a visit to Alaska by someone representing the interdenominational work is badly needed and has been voted again and again. Those who have been there recently stressed the importance of this.

VOTED that in view of the very serious and strategic situation in Alaska, this Committee ask the Executive Committee to arrange for Dr. Dawber to visit Alaska as early in 1942 as possible.

Meeting adjourned.

Jennie C. Callister

Secretary for the day.

ALASKA

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON ALASKA

HOME MISSIONS COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA
June 19, 1942

The committee met at luncheon at the Irving Hotel, New York, on Friday, June 19, at 12:30 p.m.

Present: Miss Brimson, Chairman; Miss deClercq, Miss Gladfelter, Mrs. Reynolds (for Mrs. Goode), Miss Rogers (for Dr. Halliday); Dr. Dawber, Dr. Kohlstedt, Rev. John Thomas. Miss Ristine and Mrs. Stewart also attended.

Excuses were received from Miss Lowry, Mrs. Schmidt, Dr. Addison, Dr. King.

Miss Brimson presided.

A representative from each denominational group represented gave a report of what was being done to meet the present situation in Alaska. The Woman's Division of the Methodist Board had evacuated the children from the Jessie Lee Home, Seward. All other stations were continuing as usual. In most cases authority has been given the workers in Alaska to take whatever steps are necessary in an emergency.

The activities of the USO in Alaska were discussed. Dr. Dawber suggested two things that could be done:

1. To make contact with Mr. Taft to see if any suggestion could come from the Army and Navy as to additional services that might be supplied by the USO in Alaska.

2. To ask for a conference with officials of the USO in New York.

The suggestion was made that when the war is over the whole question of reallocation of work in Alaska will need to be reopened.

Dr. Dawber was asked to get from the Boards at work in Alaska information as to what is being done at the various missions in the line of recreational and social activities, etc., for the men in the service.

Meeting adjourned.

Gertrude S. deClercq
Secretary protem.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING ON ALASKA,
CALLED AT CLEVELAND, OHIO

Monday, December 7, 1942, at 7:00 a.m.

Present: Miss Alice W. S. Brimson, presiding; Rev. E. F. Adcock, Mrs. W. H. C. Goode, W. J. Elliott (for E. D. Kohlstedt), E. Graham Wilson (for Everett B. King), B. L. Myers and Howell D. Davies representing the United Christian Council of Alaska and the Metlakahtla Christian Mission, and Mark A. Dawber. Mrs. C. Maxwell Loveys and Miss Verda Ullman of the United Church of Canada and Mrs. Nora Angus of the Church of God were also present.

The meeting was called to discuss the greater unity of Alaska work of mission Boards of the Home Missions Council and the United Christian Council of Alaska and the Metlakahtla Mission. After discussion it was decided that the best plan for the present was to include the representatives of the United Christian Council of Alaska and the Metlakahtla Mission in the Alaska Committee of the Home Missions Council for counsel and discussion of comity and cooperation.

It was agreed that the secretary would correspond with the secretaries of the United Christian Council of Alaska and the Metlakahtla Mission relative to such relationship.

Dr. Myers expressed the desire of the United Christian Council of Alaska that the chairman and secretary of the Committee on Alaska become members of the United Christian Council of Alaska.

The committee expressed its appreciation of this invitation and left with the chairman and secretary the decision as to their participation in the United Christian Council of Alaska with the observation that the committee believes it is important that someone should represent it from time to time.

The representatives from Canada were concerned that we should give some consideration to the developments on the Alaska highway. After discussion it was voted that two of the members of the committee should discuss with Dr. Dorey of the United Church of Canada the Alaska highway interests.

The meeting adjourned.

Mark A. Dawber
Secretary for the meeting

P. S.--A meeting was arranged with Dr. Dorey and a report on progress will be made later.

A G E N D A

ALASKA COMMITTEE
March 18, 1944

1. Prayer

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

3. Reply from Chief of Chaplains

4. Gift for Work in Alaska

5. Report by Executive Secretary on Conversation with Mr. Simons

6. Plans for the Alaska Visit

7. Map

8. United Christian Council of Alaska

1953

ALASKA COMMITTEE

The Alaska Committee is seeking to keep informed concerning the new developments in the Territory, to coordinate the work of the various denominations through comity and cooperation, to act as a clearing house in an effort to have a responsible evangelical ministry for the whole Territory and to plan for and administer the interdenominational work in government institutions. All denominations have been asked to present to the committee an annual report of the locations, volume, personnel, types of service membership, and financial receipts and expenditures for their work. A study of this will enable the committee to assign locations of service to other denominations where there is need without competition. The committee has held three meetings during the year.

Interdenominational School And Hospital Service. Greater cooperation and encouragement at the Mt. Edgecumbe government school and hospital has enabled our worker to perform a more effective service. He coordinates the ministry of the denominations from Sitka and is available for any personal service needed. There are week-day Christian education classes, Sunday services and personal interviews. All students (700) are permitted to attend the services of the Sitka churches on Sunday morning. In the hospital (275 beds plus 125 in the convalescent home) there are bedside visitation, morning devotions and Sunday services over the public address system with earphone outlets at each bed. A separate chapel building is needed for more effective work among the fifteen hundred people on the Island.

A new 400 bed government hospital for general and T.B. service is nearing completion in Anchorage. The committee feels strongly that we should have a worker for this center but funds are not yet available.

A student Christian Association is active on the campus of the University of Alaska and leadership has been assigned to the Presbyterians. A larger number of students have evidenced interest and activity in the fall of 1953 than ever before, and it is hoped that the S.C.A. will have more support and a stronger place in campus life.

Church Related Higher Education. After an extensive study by the Methodists and Presbyterians of the need for church related higher education a joint committee of the two denominations decided that the Presbyterians should proceed with further development of Sheldon Jackson Junior College of Sitka in southeastern Alaska and the Methodists should locate their college in some other district. The two institutions are to cooperate with each other to meet the needs of all youth in the Territory.

The two denominations are developing a Foundation for Christian Education in Alaska with six representatives from each communion as Trustees for incorporation. Provision is made for membership and representation in the foundation from other denominations.

Visitation Evangelism. The committee has sought the help and cooperation of the Department of Evangelism of the National Council for a year's program of evangelism for all churches in the Territory. Plans were made for this united emphasis for 1953 but the lack of response from Alaska and individual plans of some of the churches made it necessary to postpone this program.

Alaska Cooperative Council. This committee was instrumental in gathering together representatives of various public and private agencies to seek more united support and cooperation among all the agencies for greater strength for the program of each one. Two representative meetings were held and a steering committee was appointed. Much information has been gathered, and the council hopes to become a positive influence in every community.

Committee Organization and Resources. The Alaska Committee has been an administering committee with a worker in a government project. Additional government projects call for additional interdenominational workers and resources. At present the funds come from a share in the resources of the Indian Committee. In the reorganization of the Division the Alaska Committee has voted to seek: the status of an administering committee or department with power to employ and supervise workers in Alaska within available resources and the policies of the Division; representation on the Executive Board and a separate budget under its authority to provide for present and future work.

Developments In Alaska. Recent unofficial census figures estimate the population to be about 150,000, an increase of 22,000 since the 1950 official figure. The Anchorage area alone is said to have nearly 50,000 civilian people. Military naval and air force expansion is still proceeding although many contracts have been cut or slowed up. Oil, coal and electric power developments are still proceeding. Industrial progress is very promising for southeastern Alaska. Construction of the new $46,000,000 pulp mill near Ketchikan is progressing. Juneau's new ply board plant is in operation. A new lumber mill has been announced for Sitka. A U.S.-Canadian Company has been organized to develop the mountain of iron at Klukwan (near Haines). Alcoa still hopes to build the largest aluminum reduction plant in the world at Tyea, near Skagway. Not much promise seems to be offered for immediate statehood but Alaska stands on the threshold of new industrial expansion. Public and private agencies for personal services such as health, education and child care have improved. A few additional projects have been undertaken by the churches.

To meet the spiritual needs involved in all this growth and development the church must prepare in advance. Since most of the resources and people involved in these projects will come from the states, the church in the states must also be prepared in advance to supply personnel and resources to be on the ground with missionaries and funds to start their work. Funds must be available for chapels in which to have worship and Christian training. The church must have the vision to see the need and the generous concern to provide missionaries and resources to supply any development with a spiritual ministry. The church must be there with spiritual power.

J. Earl Jackman, Chairman

April 8, 1954

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES AT EDGECUMBE

Since the time of my last report the activities at Mt. Edgecumbe have been fairly routine. However, certain problems have arisen, and there have been some highlights:

As to problems: In the school --

1). The ever-present problem of proselyting has been aggravated this year by the Assembly of God. Since the beginning of the school year the other members of the clergy have made complaints concerning the activity of the Rev. Leon Ayers, local pastor for the Assemblies of God.

On Tuesday nights the attendance at this class in religious instructinn has swelled from an original five or six to as high as 59. You may question how this could happen if I were on the job. It has happened as follows: Reports have been made to Mr. Hill about the gradual increase from week to week, with recommendations. Always Mr. Hill has been reluctant to make any drastic steps. I have consulted with Mr. Ayers on numerous occasions; have written him twice, the second time rather sternly. Mr. Ayers each time acts very hurt to think that anyone could question his good intentions; he promises that he will herewith act in accord with regulations, and, the next Tuesday there is another increase.

I have gone so far as to interrupt a class session and ask that every student there who is not a member of the Assembly of God please accompany me to the Office for proper permits (permits are cards of various colors, one for each denomination, dictated by the ministerial association by just such excesses as the one I a m describing) to attend religious instruction in the Church of their parents' choice. Mr. Hill was present. He was as amazed as I at the belligerent attitude on the part of almost all of the students (more than 30) and, nothing was gained by the whole episode as these, and others from other Churches, were re-admitted the next week without proper permits.

Dr. Jackman and I have discussed this specific problem twice. He has stated that I should positively limit the activities of this group to work with their own students. I would certainly do so if Mr. Hill would or could grant me proper authority. Temporarily Mr. Ayers is in the States on a money-raising tour, expecting to be back next fall. His three brothers carry on in the meantime. Last week's attendance was 16, because of the measures I have taken, though there were students from six other denominations in attendance.

Any positive help the Alaska Committee could give in strengthening my position in this regard would certainly be appreciated.

2). As is customary in the Spring Quarter of the School year, I constantly receive requests for special permission for special activities in the various Sitka Churches. These requests are almost always from the small sects not affiliated with the National Council. Their requests are foredoomed to denial; they then try the same requests through the dormitories, (against regulations) and I am kept busy in the police activity which is odious to me. These requests

seem to multiply each Spring in an attempt to find out just how far they can go. Their seriousness is that with their multiplication, and with repeated denials and repeated reports, weekly to Mr. Hill, he often becomes impatient and our whole program is endangered.

In the hospital --

There is another new medical chief. He has been here since the middle of February. I still do not understand him. I have had repeated conferences with him. I never receive any satisfaction. He not only promises nothing--he merely says nothing. Mr. Geeslin has conferred with him, at my request, concerning our established procedures, but there have still been some changes which are not desirable: viz. In the past I have always been notified by the head nurse of anything involving a patient's status and have in turn notified the proper clergyman. Everyone has been satisfied. There have been several recent direct notices with two incorrect ones. It was primarily about this that Mr. Geeslin spoke to Dr. Mankinen (he is a Protestant).

The High lights:

The Christmas pageant and music presentation was a huge success with probably 1200 people witnessing it. It was staged by the students under the direction of the school music department, with advice from me.

I have assisted in several student assembly programs.

I accompanied the school basketball team twice on trips to Juneau and Douglas, as a chaperon and advisor.

On the World Day of Prayer a group from Edgecumbe pa rticipated in the Sitka Youth Service.

There will be a Good Friday Service at the assembly period on Friday afternoon. Students will be urged to attend an interdenominational Sunrise Easter Service with the Union Youth group in Sitka. Special ferry boats will be provided for this occasion at 6:15 a.m.

Mr..Hill not only grants almost all such requests nowadays but urges that all such proper events be observed. Students are permitted to come to Sitka without chaperons; this is a complete change of policy, liberalizing the entire school attitude toward religious observance.

On the good side also, is the fact that there has been no major disturbance on the part of any group this year except the Assembly of God. I feel that I should make special mention of the fact that the Presbyterian group (largest by far) has been completely free this year of any charge of admitting students from other groups on Tuesday nights. This is no small task, and Mr. Short (Presbyterian religious education assistant) has done an excellent job. He has also assisted the entire program at Edgecumbe in many constructive ways. I am indeed thankful; for he has assisted me personally and he has helped the whole cause of cooperative religious endeavor.

Graduation is only five weeks away. For me it has been a hectic year because of family problems. However, it has been a good year and I feel that in almost every realm we have made progress.

MURLIN W. DAY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE ON ALASKA

Division of Home Missions

National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

10:15 A.M., April 13, 1954, Room 95, 257 Fourth Avenue, New York City

Present:	J. Earl Jackman, Chairman	Paul O. Madsen
	John B. Bentley	Alice Maloney
	Emma Burris	I. George Nace
	Katharine E. Gladfelter	Merle Gripman
	P. Gordon Gould	
Regrets:	E. F. Adcock	Elliott L. Fisher
	Earl R. Brown	Kenneth G. Hamilton
	Dorothy O. Bucklin	

Prayer: P. Gordon Gould

Minutes Approved

Dr. Nace reviewed the minutes of the meeting of December 12, 1953, which were approved by common consent.

Mt. Edgecumbe

Dr. Nace stated that during the latter part of March the Reverend Murlin W. Day, on the advice of a physician, had brought Mrs. Day to the States for special care. She had an operation in the fall of 1953, but had not been getting along well in recent weeks. Mr. Day left her with her sister and made arrangements for her to enter a clinic; he had returned to Alaska immediately because of the demands of the work there. On April 8 he telephoned Dr. Nace in reference to the advisability of moving into a one-room apartment in order to make a substantial saving in rent, as it did not seem that Mrs. Day could return very soon. He also said that Mrs. Day had gone to her mother's home.

Although Mr. Day had not asked for any financial help, Dr. Jackman said that Mr. Day had had to borrow $800.00 for transportation and other expenses in relation to the trip to the States. Dr. Jackman, Dr. Fisher and Dr. Nace had discussed the matter and recommended that some financial assistance be extended to Mr. Day.

Miss Maloney suggested the importance of securing an itemized statement of the costs which were involved in Mrs. Day's illness.

VOTED that Dr. Nace be asked to write Mr. Day, in behalf of the committee, suggesting that, in view of the uncertainty about Mrs. Day's illness and the fact that it may be prolonged, which may necessitate his being near her and her family in New York State, the committee would agree to his release from his contract at Mount Edgecumbe, if Mr. Day wishes it, when an adjustment can be made concerning a position for him.

Dr. Gould felt that Mr. Day should make contact now with the Northern New York Conference, of which he is a member, in regard to the possibility of an appointment. He suggested that a copy of the letter to Mr. Day go to Bishop W. Earl Ledden, 217 East Jefferson, Syracuse, New York.

VOTED to ask Dr. Nace to request a statement from Mr. Day in regard to the expense incurred because of Mrs. Day's illness, also any Blue Cross credit he may have received toward it; and that Drs. Nace, Fisher and the chairman estimate what is needed to give Mr. Day some financial relief, and send a letter to the boards asking for a contribution toward an emergency grant.

Dr. Jackman reported that two regular program items cost approximately $368.00 a year, namely, $260.00 for tapes for the Sunday broadcasts at the hospital and $9.00 a month for telephone. Dr. Nace said he would write the school, inquiring whether they would not pay the cost of the telephone for Mr. Day.

Dr. Gould reported that the Methodist Conference had set up a fund of $50.00 for visual aid materials if Mr. Day wishes them. He will remind Mr. Day of this offer.

Dr. Jackman said that the Presbyterians would give $50.00 for audio aids for Mr. Day's work.

Anchorage Hospital

The chairman reported that the hospital at Anchorage is open and operating at about one-half capacity. The Alaska Native Service has a social worker on their staff. Various ministers in the Anchorage area are trying to do something toward a ministry to the patients.

The committee requested Dr. Nace to write Mr. William Olson, successor to Don Foster, and Mr. Orme Lewis, of the Department of the Interior, concerning the possibility of placing a chaplain at the hospital.

Mr. Madsen stated that the American Baptist Home Mission Society would be interested in another opportunity for work in Alaska.

Dr. Nace explained that a project could be allocated to a denomination by action of this Alaska Committee. He spoke of the fact that the Evangelical and Reformed Board of National Missions also wished to do some work in Alaska.

Analysis of Reports on Alaskan Missions

Dr. Nace stated that he had received from the Department of Research and Survey an analysis of the reports of the constituent boards on their missions in Alaska. Dr. Jackman had read the analysis, which he said was well done but much of it based on out-dated sources. For example, in October, 1953 the estimate of population in Alaska was 182,000 and it is now probably over 200,000. Other figures were not accurate because of lack of understanding of the fact that the population includes other natives besides Eskimos. He stressed the importance of securing an annual report from the boards on their work in Alaska; the reports from which this summary was made were received some time ago.

Bishop Bentley said that the survey unit of the Protestant Episcopal Church made a very thorough survey of Alaska in the summer of 1953, the record of which he would be willing to share with the Alaska Committee.

After members of the committee had mentioned difficulties encountered in using the questionnaires supplied, it was

VOTED that the forms for reports on Alaskan missions be sent to the boards for suggestions concerning revisions, before the forms are used for another report.

Miss Maloney asked whether the Depa rtment of Research and Survey could not make some suggestions about the forms.

The chairman proposed that when the reports on Alaskan missions are next received from the boards, the Research Department be asked to tabulate the results, which should be matched against a list of all communities in Alaska to determine whether every community has a ministry of some kind with which the committee could cooperate. If not, the unserved communities could be recommended to any denomination that wished to expand its work.

Visitation Evangelism

Dr. Nace stated that, in response to his letter to four ministerial associations concerning a possible visitation evangelism program, he had heard favorably from Ketchikan, Fairbanks, and Juneau.

VOTED that the committee instruct the chairman and Dr. Nace to confer with Dr. Jesse Bader's successor, as soon as possible after he comes into office as director of the Joint Department of Evangelism, in regard to a visitation evangelism program for Alaska.

Alaska Cooperative Planning Conference

Dr. Nace read the principal part of a letter from the Reverend Fred McGinnis, Juneau, to whom he had written in reference to recent progress of the Alaska Conference of Cooperative Planning. A number of movements, not directly sponsored by the Alaska Conference, have seemed to be the offspring of that conference, among them a united approach to the seasonality of employment. Gradually some of the problems are being met, yet there is much more to be done.

Dr. Gould said that Mr. Orme Lewis seemed interested, but he doubted that the survey being made by the Government would go beyond health and family social welfare needs.

VOTED to express to Mr. Fred McGinnis the continued interest of the Alaska Committee in the Alaska Conference of Cooperative Planning, and ask the Secretary to write to Mr. Orme Lewis urging him to give the leadership of the conference every encouragement possible.

Christian College in Alaska

Dr. Gould stated that Anchorage had been selected as the site for a Christian College. The committee respossible for the project is at work on specific plans for raising the initial sum of $2,000,000, half to be used as endowment and half toward building. The Anchorage community is organizing a committee to assist in the campaign there.

New Missions

Dr. Gould reported that a site had been secured for a Methodist Church at Anchor Park (Anchor Homes) in Anchorage, and plans were underway. The Methodist Board received a request from the people of Chugiak for leadership and they allowed their minister to go out to give them some help for Sunday school purposes.

The people wanted to organize a church, and have secured property for this purpose. The Methodists, who have been serving the Kenai Peninsula with a mobile ministry, are planning this summer to start a church at Kenai.

Alaska Foundation for Christian Education

Dr. Gould further stated that the Methodist Board at its annual meeting had accepted the recommendations of their Alaska Committee in regard to the Alaska Foundation. Personnel to serve on that foundation have been named by both the Presbyterian and Methodist Boards. A joint release was issued in Juneau about the Alaska Foundation.

Material Needs in Alaska

Dr. Nace reported that a letter from Mrs. Shirley Brewer, of Fort Collins, Colorado, addressed to Church World Service, had been referred to him. She was concerned about the reported needs of the people at Tanacross, whom she had helped by sending boxes of clothing, and raised the question as to whether these folk could not be aided by Church World Service. Dr. Zwayer of Church World Service, in forwarding the letter, indicated that there were some government surplus commodities which might be applied for by the Division or individual home mission boards. He mentioned that Church World Service is limited to "relief operations overseas."

Bishop Bentley thought it would be well to inquire of their missionary at Tanacross, the Rev. Bob Greene, about conditions in the village.

The extremely poor fishing season last year was mentioned as affecting other parts of Alaska.

VOTED to ask the denominations at work in Alaska to secure from key representatives in the territory, a statement as to the relative needs for material assistance and their judgment as to whether this committee should approach Church Workd Service in regard to meeting these needs, and that these statements be brought to the next meeting of the Alaska Committee. It was agreed that Dr. Gould would write Fred McGinnis, Mr. Madsen to Howard E. May of Cordova, Dr. Jackman to Mr. Armstrong, and Bishop Bentley to Bishop Gordon.

Statehood

The provisions of the bill for Alaskan statehood, particularly whether they protect the possessory rights of the natives, were discussed. Dr. Jackman said it did not seem at all likely that the bill introduced in the Senate would be considered in this session of Congress.

Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 12:10 P.M., with prayer by the Right Rev. John B. Bentley.

Merle Gripman
Secretary for the Meeting

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE ON ALASKA

Division of Home Missions
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

10:00 A.M., May 9th, 1955, Room 95, 257 Fourth Ave., New York City

Presiding, in the absence of the chairman, Rev. J. Earl Jackman.

Present: John B. Bentley, J. Earl Jackman, I. George Nace, Leila W. Anderson (Visitor)

Regrets were received from twenty members.

Prayer: Bishop John B. Bentley

Miss Leila Anderson, Assistant General Secretary for Program and Field Operations, was introduced.

Minutes

It was reported that the minutes of the meeting of January 12, 1955 had been mailed to the members of the committee. They were reviewed and, as no corrections or changes were suggested, approved.

Mt. Edgecumbe - Report from Mr. Day

A report from Mr. Day for the months of January and February, regarding activities at Mt. Edgecumbe, was read, and received with appreciation. Dr. Jackman, who, on a recent trip to the territory, visited Mt. Edgecumbe, amplified several of the items to which reference was made in the report. Since Dr. Jackman will make another trip to Alaska within the next few weeks it was suggested that he endeavor to secure additional information regarding problems brought to the attention of the committee.

Anchorage Hospital

A letter dated March 29th from the Rev. John F. Seibert, Minister of Faith Presbyterian Church, Anchorage, regarding a chaplain or worker for the Alaska Native Hospital at Anchorage was read. The letter, written in behalf of the Anchorage Ministerial Fellowship, requested that the Committee on Alaska give early consideration to the appointment of an interdenominational worker for the hospital on the basis of the following recommendations:

1. There should be a chaplain working on an interdenominational plan in the Alaska Native Service Hospital of Anchorage.

2. This person should be unordained, to avoid any prejudice in administration of the sacraments or bias denominationally. Local ministers to be called for such activities.

3. This person should be a man in order that he may have freer access to all patients.

4. This person be willing to cooperate fully with both the Hospital staff and the ministerial fellowship.

The matter was discussed informally, but action was deferred for consideration at a conference with church leaders to be held at Anchorage in the late fall of this year.

Ketchikan - Relocation of Presbyterian Church

Dr. Jackman reported that the members of the Presbyterian Church at Ketchikan had voted to relocate in the north end of the city. As there was no problem of comity involved in the judgment of the members of the Committee present, the report was received.

Reports on Alaska Missions

The committee was informed that four or five reports had not yet been received, but that efforts are being made to secure all of them.

Meeting on Comity in Alaska

VOTED that in the light of rapidly changing conditions, and in view of requests from Alaska for a meeting on comity within the territory, plans be made for a conference to be held at Anchorage, October 18 and 19, 1955, the same to be attended by representatives from both board headquarters and area administration of constituent bodies in the National Council of Churches which now have work or anticipate having work in Alaska. Items for the agenda of the conference are to be requested of the boards. Further, it was

VOTED that provision be made for Dr. Nace to attend this conference; that one-half of the expenses for his trip be paid from Alaska Committee funds; and that a request be made for one-fourth to be met by the Indian Committee, the other one-fourth by the Division from its budget for General Administration.

Subcommittee on Personnel

It was agreed that since Dr. Elliott L. Fisher has asked to be relieved from service on this committee, Dr. W. Vernon Middleton, his successor, be invited to replace him on the committee.

Chapel at Fairbanks

Dr. Jackman reported that he was requested to bring the need for a chapel on the campus of the University at Fairbanks to the attention of the committee. It was agreed that in view of the proposed conference to be held in Alaska in October this matter be deferred until then for consideration.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that the committee should meet again in September if a suitable date can be selected.

Adjournment

Adjourned at 12:20 P.M., with prayer by Dr. Jackman

I. George Nace

Office Copy

9/13/55 Copy of Minutes only (no attachments) sent RRA K

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE ON ALASKA

Division of Home Missions
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

10:20 A.M., September 13, 1955, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City, N. Y.

Present: Dorothy O. Bucklin, Chairman
Emma Burris
Theron Chastain
J. Earl Jackman
W. Vernon Middleton
I. George Nace
Mrs. J. N. Rodeheaver
Merle Gripman

Regrets: E. F. Adcock
Leila Anderson
John B. Bentley
E. Russell Carter
Henry J. Damm
Purd E. Deitz
P. Gordon Gould
Wesley A. Hotchkiss
Beth E. Marcus
Harold P. Schultz
T. H. Van Dyck
Mrs. Samuel J. Walker

Prayer: Miss Burris

Minutes Approved

The minutes of the meeting of May 9, 1955 were approved as circulated.

Plans for Comity Conference

Dr. Nace reported on a meeting of a special committee, August 1st and 3rd, which drafted a program for the Comity Conference in Anchorage, Alaska, October 17 to 19. Copies of the proposed program were distributed.

Dr. Nace stated that Bishop Bentley had assured him that the conference could be held at All Saints' Episcopal Church.

AGREED that the Reverend James E. Austin, Chairman of the Ministerial Fellowship in Anchorage, be invited to conduct the devotions Monday evening instead of Tuesday morning.

An address entitled "Up To Now" will give the historical development of comity in Alaska, the present situation, and understandings which affect the future in comity.

Dr. Nace stated that Mr. Orme Lewis could not accept the invitation to speak at the conference but had asked Governor Heintzleman if he would represent the Department of the Interior. Governor Heintzleman will attend if at all possible or will send a representative. Mr. William H. Olsen desires further details about the subject matter for his address.

AGREED that an invitation should be extended to the Public Welfare Department of Alaska to be represented in an address to the conference.

Miss Bucklin reported that she had written to the members of the panel who were to discuss the subject "Working Together in Alaska" - as seen from the field. It was hoped that this discussion would present information about the actual situation and need for cooperation.

In reference to the evening Panel on "Working Together in Alaska" - as seen from board headquarters, Dr. Jackman suggested that questions to be covered might include (1) clearance regarding new work, (2) property, (3) missionary personnel, (4) values of in-service training.

Dr. Jackman stated that the committee felt that the conference should be made up of official representation from boards in the States and from the churches in the territory.

Dr. Middleton expressed great interest in the possibility of a workers' conference in northwest Alaska, suggesting that it be discussed at the October meeting. He also asked if there were any denominations associated with the Division of Home Missions, but not now working in Alaska, who would be interested in undertaking service there. Dr. Nace stated that the Evangelical & Reformed Church Board of National Missions was interested in this possibility. Dr. Middleton thought it would be well to invite these denominations to be represented at the meeting.

Dr. Middleton mentioned the fact that the Aleutian Island chain lacked a ministry in general and perhaps could be allocated to some denomination.

The question of comity in relation to the institutions of the churches was raised. The consensus was that the institutions were a part of the total picture, and that there should be some sort of consultation between denominations before any institutions are begun.

Since it was impossible for the Methodist Woman's Division of Christian Service to send any representative from the states to this conference in October it was suggested that Dr. Francis Phillips of Seward might be appointed as their delegate.

Dr. Nace reported that Bishop Grant could not accept the invitation to give the final address Wednesday morning, October 19, on the subject, "Into the Future," Dr. Middleton proposed P. Gordon Gould as the speaker. After discussion it was

VOTED that we ask Dr. Jackman to give the final address on "Into the Future," instead of the opening speech.

AGREED that P. Gordon Gould be asked to give the first address on "Up to Now".

AGREED that the Rev. Frank J. Walkup be asked to lead the Tuesday evening devotions and that the Rev. James Austin be requested to invite the pastor of the Christian Reformed Church to take the Tuesday morning worship period.

The Westward and Anchorage Hotels were mentioned as good places to stay.

Background Materials

The group felt that a map locating the work of the major denominations in Alaska would be helpful. It was suggested that material be gathered from denominations not represented in the Alaska Committee about their missions in that territory.

Reports on Alaska Missions

AGREED that Dr. Nace confer with Dr. Glen W. Trimble of the Bureau of Research about a summary of the material in the Alaska mission reports from the boards.

Delegates

AGREED that a letter should be sent to the executive secretaries of all the boards constituent to the Division in regard to sending delegates to the Alaska Conference. An earlier letter had gone to members of the Alaska Committee.

The Alaska Committee reiterated its conviction that Dr. Nace should attend the conference.

Tuesday evening, October 18, was suggested as a possible time for a meeting of the Alaska Committee, with an invitation to administrative representatives of denominations in the territory to be present.

Murlin W. Day

Dr. Nace mentioned Mr. Day's desire to attend the conference. This seemed valuable if funds could be found to cover the expenses.

Dr. Nace said that Mr. Day, in response to encouragement, had set down his ideas regarding the situation of the Alaskan native people, and read portions of the report.

AGREED that Mr. Day's report be mimeographed and included in the minutes of this meeting, also Mr. Scott Brown's letter to Commissioner Emmons.

AGREED to refer to the administrative officers the question of finding funds to cover Mr. Day's expenses for attending the Anchorage conference.

AGREED that the personnel committee of the Alaska Committee consider the problem of Mr. Day's furlough in 1956 and his continuance in the work at Mt. Edgecumbe.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 P.M.

Merle Gripman
Secretary for the Meeting.

For Alaska Committee only

(Note: Murlin W. Day regards all these statements as either true or partly true. He indicates that the majority of them are true.)

Dear Mr. Emmons:

In your recent visit to Mount Edgecumbe, Alaska you saw the surface of what probably looked like a wonderful institution for the education of the native children of Alaska. The school is quite well-equipped; the teachers are generally capable; and the school is located in an area where it certainly is needed.

But, I wish that you could be an unseen guest at some of the staff's summer coffee-time discussions concerning the school. The questions fly thick and fast:

Why can't these kids read?

Why did K.A. enter as a freshman with a grade placement of 10.6 and graduate four years later with a grade placement of only 11.2?

Why is it that a teacher-initiated campaign to stop excessive smoking on campus grounds was quelled at the outset?

Why is it that teachers can truthfully say that not once during the school year has any superior inquired about their classroom work?

Why is it that some students with a diploma from Mount Edgecumbe find themselves unable to gain admittance into colleges? --students who have planned to attend college since their first day at Edgecumbe.

Why is it that one teacher alone with a total of only about 160 students can count six girls who have had to leave school because they were pregnant? (Only one pregnancy of these was made at school. Others during summer vacation. - M.W.D.)

Why is it that a member of the vocational staff has stated that he doesn't mind teaching native kids but does not care to associate with natives in other ways?

Why is it that extended games of chess and checkers are played in classes when teachers don't feel like teaching?

Why are there no after-school or dormitory facilities for study?

Why is it that obscenity is constantly practiced by dormitory and shop staff and is condoned among students?

Why has one teacher made the statement that he takes particular pains not to show an interest in school activities because he's afraid he'll be called upon to help sponsor such functions?

Why do students have the privilege of leaving classrooms without permission? (And they do! They wander aimlessly about campus at all hours of the day.)

Why do certain teachers allow their students to openly put their heads on their desks and sleep? (I counted seven such sleepers in one classroom while the teacher was present.)

Why is it that in supervised dormitory living, boys are permitted to be so filthy that classroom windows must be opened to alleviate the stench?

Why is it that prospective employers in reviewing the grades of Edgecumbe students automatically lower the grades one step?

Why is it that when one teacher was ill for several weeks, no substitute was provided. The students were left alone in the classroom. Some stayed and slept, but many others prowled the halls or retired to the rest rooms for a smoke.

The school here at Edgecumbe has the facilities to do something really fine for the native people, but it's a failure! Boys less than fifteen years old stroll across campus with cigarettes dangling from their mouths. Nothing is said although this is supposedly against the rules. Students are constantly late to class. No action is taken. Students from Edgecumbe are rejected by colleges because they don't have the necessary requirements. Something is seriously wrong!

Why is it that the assistant principal this year with ten years of experience in the Alaska Native Service resigned? Through this resignation, the natives of Alaska lost a much-loved and highly respected and capable person. I do not think she resigned because she lost interest in our students. I feel certain that you would find a copy of her reasons for resignation extremely interesting, although I have never seen it nor heard anything about its contents.

The operation of our school is being bungled! The students are--instead of becoming good citizens --becoming lazy and irresponsible. They gamble in the boys' dorm. They go broke. What happens? They complain that they have no money and are allowed to see school shows and ball games for nothing. Is that education? Granted there are some who have no money and never did, but there are many others who are receiving free gifts when they could and should be made to pay for them.

In spite of the fact that the operation of the Mount Edgecumbe School is costing the Government well over a half-million dollars per year, there are not enough textbooks to go around in World History, English, and General Science. (There may be other shortages, but these I am sure about) So, the books are left inside the classroom at all times. How can a student develop an interest and follow it up if his study materials aren't available to him except for one classroom hour per day? Perhaps this situation stems partly from the principal's statement that he sees no need for World History in high school.

Freshman, eager to learn and anxious to please, often become lazy, insolent, arrogant. Brilliant students are not forced to the peak of their ability. Why should they work? They're getting by beautifully! Poor students with intelligence far below that necessary for high school work manage to stumble through Mount Edgecumbe and eventually graduate and are handed a nearly worthless piece of paper which testifies that they are graduates of Edgecumbe.

Certainly there is a terrific problem here at Edgecumbe. The students have a wide disparity in previous training. They come from all over the territory, and their backgrounds and family training are as varied as can possibly be imagined. Perhaps their failings in math and English can be traced back to ANS grammar schools which have failed to do a good job.

But, the students have not come from big city slums where they have associated with teen-age gangs. That makes it doubly difficult to explain the drinking, stealing, and the flagrant disregard of rules.

It is my honest opinion that the students at Mount Edgecumbe are entitled to a better break than they are getting.

It is like pulling teeth at Edgecumbe to organize any extracurricular activity for students. Many teachers avoid the headache of directing plays and organizing clubs and parties because such endeavors entail endless disputes between dormitory heads, administration and other members of the teaching staff.

Maybe you're now thinking to yourself: What kind of agitator is this character, anyway? Well, perhaps the foregoing does sound that way, but these problems and incidences I have cited are not fabrications. These are all things which I have personally observed, and I am writing you in the earnest hope that you will understand the situation and be able to help remedy it. Naturally there are some--particularly those who have been with the Indian Service a long time--who don't realize that these students are not receiving from Edgecumbe a real high school education.

Here are some suggestions which I feel certain would help straighten out the mess into which Edgecumbe has drifted:

1. Each teacher should submit to the school administration a brief outline of the course he or she will teach. This outline will be broken into school quarters and will explain briefly the work to be covered each period.

2. The principal or assistant principal should make frequent tours from one classroom to another during class time. This would keep teachers--who are certainly not immune to laxity--on their toes. When an instructor knows that he'll never be called to task for not doing a decent job, he can get awfully lazy.

3. Each student should have his own personal text for every course and should be financially responsible for it.

4. At least three nights a week there should be a mandatory study period for all students.

5. There should be an inauguration of a basic English program which will start at the very beginning and teach reading and elementary grammar. I have had sophomores in my classes who admitted that they were unaware of the fact that a sentence should begin with a capital letter. Sophomores, mind you! I had one student who had returned to do post-grad work at Edgecumbe. He didn't know that a verb was required to complete a sentence. He was an Edgecumbe graduate!

6. All applicants should be carefully screened. Since there is a waiting list, I believe that trouble-makers and non-learners should be excluded to make room for those who are able and willing to learn.

7. Students should have a teacher-adviser with whom they meet at least once per quarter to discuss future plans. (A free period--which most teachers do not now have--would have to be provided for these meetings).

8. Each teacher should be required to spend at least one night a month on some type of extra-curricular work. This will eliminate the idea that as government teachers the working day ends at 5:00 p.m.

9. There should be no smoking anywhere on campus except in special rooms in dormitories.

10. Teachers and advisers should definitely be prohibited the use of profanity.

11. There should be dormitory inspections which include not only the possessions of the students, but the students themselves.

12. There should be severe penalties for pilfering, not just shaking a finger at offenders.

13. There should be severe penalties for gambling and drinking; the latter(on second offense) should be followed by expulsion.

Now in any government agency, a great deal of importance is placed upon time in grade and time in service. Why? Why is it that a well-qualified man with experience as a superintendent would not be considered for supervisory position in a native school until he has spent a number of years as a classroom teacher? Why is it that poorly qualified personnel are able to advance into positions of responsibility merely because they happen to be at the right place at the right time? That is one of the biggest problems which faces Edgecumbe today!

Well, I have managed to unload a great many things which have been on my mind for a long time. I do hope that my letter will give you some idea of what is happening here. I'd have felt like a very weak and meek sister had I resigned from the Mount Edgecumbe teaching staff without making any attempt to let you know about this unfortunate situation. If you would like verification of any of the facts I have stated, please write. I will gladly furnish written testimony of other teachers concerning our problem.

Sincerely yours,

Scott W. Brown
Commercial Teacher

This refers to last year, 1954-55, of course.

Murlin Day.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE ON ALASKA

Division of Home Missions
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.

8:00 P.M., December 10, 1955, The Inn, Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania

Presiding: Miss Dorothy O. Bucklin, Chairman

Present:

Dorothy O. Bucklin, Chairman	Dr. W. E. Reed (for Dr. Adcock)
Earl R. Brown	Mrs. J. N. Rodeheaver
Theron Chastain	Edith E. Lowry
J. Earl Jackman	I. George Nace

Prayer: Dr. Reed

Minutes Approved

The minutes of the meeting held September 13, 1955, were approved as mailed.

It was suggested that hereafter the office of the Division of Home Missions send to each denominational representative on the committee an extra copy of the minutes.

Comity Situations

1. Ketchikan The relocation of the Presbyterian Church in the northern end of the city was discussed. Dr. Jackman reported that the members of the church had voted to relocate.

> VOTED that the action taken by the Alaska Committee, May 9, 1955, regarding the relocation of the Presbyterian Church be referred to the conference scheduled to be held in Fairbanks in February for their information and concurrence.

2. Turnagain Arms The action of the committee taken September 21, 1954, regarding the hope of the American Baptist to relocate a church in Turnagain Arms, was recalled for further discussion.

> VOTED to share the action with the Comity Committee constituted at the time of the Anchorage conference in October and with the conference to be held in February in Fairbanks.

(It was suggested that in the covering letter transmitting this action, an explanation be made to the effect that several years ago the Alaska Committee had agreed d that the American Baptist, as an immersionist denomination, be given an allocation in Anchorage).

Anchorage Hospital

Dr. Nace reported that the subcommittee, empowered to select the worker for the Anchorage hospital, had extended an invitation to Miss Alice Green, who has accepted and was to assume her responsibilities as of December 1st.

VOTED to confirm the action of the subcommittee.

Furlough for the Rev. Murlin W. Day

VOTED to confirm the action of the subcommittee regarding a furlough for the Rev. Murlin W. Day of Mt. Edgecumbe in 1956 and request the Indian Committee to provide travel expense for the same.

VOTED to approve the recommendation of the Personnel Committee for the return of Mr. Day for another period of three years following his furlough in 1956.

University Chapel

VOTED to inform the members of the conference meeting at Fairbanks in February regarding the need for a chapel on the campus of the University, which has been brought to the attention of the committee, with the request that the conference explore the situation and inform the committee of their findings and recommendations.

Anchorage Conference

AGREED that the report on the conference held at Anchorage in October be edited and mailed to all the members of the committee as well as those attending the conference, and that, if possible, a date for the conference to be held in February be included in the minutes.

VOTED, further, that the statement released to the press by the Anchorage conference be attached to these minutes and mailed to the members of the committee.

Church of God

Dr. Reed reported, for the information of the committee, that the Church of God has been engaged in constructing two new churches in Alaska during the past year; one at Potter, some ten miles distance from Anchorage, the other at Sutton, near Palmer. He stated that no church was engaged in a ministry in these communities and that therefore no comity problem was involved.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 P. M.

I. George Nace
Recording Secretary

THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY IN ALASKA

JAN 4 1956

AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL STATEMENT

We, the representatives of twelve Protestant denominations serving every area of Alaska and meeting in conference in Anchorage, October 19, 1955, desire to express concern that the nature of the need for Christian missionary work in Alaska be accurately understood from the local viewpoint.

Throughout the years, nearly all of the populated territory of Alaska has been allocated geographically among a number of denominations. Except in a few small remote communities, all people receive some form of ministry by resident, itinerant, or radio missionary service adapted to the size, circumstances, and accessibility of families and communities. The Christian gospel is being preached and applied to the life of the people. At least a minimum of service is available throughout the territory.

The present need is two-fold. First, it is a need for an increase of church funds and personnel to develop and strengthen the ministries of the denominations at work in the territory; and second, it is a need for coordination and cooperation among all church groups, in order that duplication and sectarian divisiveness may be eliminated.

The special social ills of Alaska are those rising from the isolation of frontier life plus a phenomenal growth in population that outstrips available services. A population increase of 62% between 1950 and 1954, highest in the nation, makes it plain that the work in every area needs to be intensified and strengthened. In many villages, because of the low income of the people, there is great need for additional funds and personnel from the churches in the states to strengthen their ministry and to train local leadership.

In situations like these, an over-emphasis on sectarianism breeds divisions and dissensions and becomes a threat to community life. Many communities of fewer than one hundred people, where cooperating churches have been serving for fifty years, have been suddenly torn apart by the intrusion of groups interpreting God's love and care as less than universal. At the same time larger communities have become afflicted with a multiplicity of groups, some cooperative and some divisive. The urban standard advocated by many denominational bodies suggests one church for each twenty-five hundred persons. Yet one Alaska community of fifteen hundred persons reports nine churches; two cities of eight thousand report twenty-three churches each. These are situations that cry out for coordinated planning and a cooperative spirit on the part of all groups at work in the name of the Christian Gospel.

We who are meeting here as representatives of twelve denominations serving in Alaska for many years are determined to do everything possible to perform a more intensive and effective ministry in our places of responsibility and to seek greater cooperation among ourselves and others for a vital Christian ministry to all of Alaska. To do this, greater help is needed in funds and personnel. Responsible communions desiring to share in the permanent advance of the Christian movement in Alaska are urged to do so in cooperation with communions already engaged in missionary work there through the years.

Minutes

Alaska Committee

May 11, 1959 — 9th Floor Conference Room

10:00 a.m. — 257 Fourth Ave., New York City

Rev. W. Vernon Middleton, presiding

Present:

Members	Staff
Miss Isbister	Miss Green
Dr. Jackman	Mr. Regier
Dr. Kortz	Mr. Ruoss
Dr. Madsen	Miss Shotwell
Miss Marcus	
Dr. Middleton	

Dr. Middleton opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the December meeting were approved as circulated.

Mr. Ruoss' Alaska Visit:

Mr. Ruoss reported on his February visit to Alaska and his attendance at the meeting of the Alaska Council of Churches. He made three basic comments:

1. Alaska is a society in process of formation, and the church has an opportunity now to influence its shape, an opportunity that will not recur.

2. In the field of social welfare, both public conscience and structure need to be developed.

3. Higher education offers a channel for the church to exercise its influence. Specific opportunities include endowments for chairs of philosophy and social science at the University of Alaska; an integrated campus ministry at the University of Alaska; and endowment for a chair of political science at the new Methodist University.

Mr. Ruoss stated that the Alaska Council of Churches is aware of its opportunity; has discussed all these issues; and within the limits of its resources, is expressing its concern in the fields of social action and social welfare.

For details of his observations, Mr. Ruoss referred the committee to the April issue of the National Council Outlook, already distributed to committee members by mail.

Report from Miss Alice Green:

Miss Green, on furlough from her work as Coordinator of Chaplaincy services at the Alaska Native Hospital in Anchorage, spoke of the amazing accomplishment in the reduction of tuberculosis in Alaska, and the effect that this is having on her own work. Tuberculosis patients are now being sent to Mount Edgecumbe, and consequently the patient turnover at Anchorage will be much greater in the future. There is an emphasis on preventive medicine; as an example she cited the tonsillectomy program

designed to lower the high incidence of mastoid trouble and deafness. Recently within a three-week period eighty children from St. Lawrence Island were sent to Anchorage for tonsillectomies.

Anchorage is a 400-bed hospital; few native villages have that large a population. The strangeness of the surroundings plus a language barrier often add up to acute homesickness. Miss Green's weekly Sunday School is a big event for the children, and when she goes through the wards, they will say: "Is it Sunday yet?"

Her patients are about one-third Russian Orthodox, one-third Roman Catholic, and one-third "miscellaneous" Protestant. The Russian Orthodox patients attend Protestant services.

Miss Green is a member of the Anchorage Ministerial Association. This past winter she organized a religious education leadership training school in Anchorage. The women from the Elmendorf Air Base gave her money for a tape recorder so that patients might send messages by way of the public health nurses back to their families in the native villages.

Request from the Alaska Council of Churches:

Mr. Regier communicated a formal request from the Alaska Council of Churches, recorded as follows in a letter dated March 5: "that the Alaska Committee of the Division of Home Missions of the National Council consider making available to our churches in Alaska a church planner for purposes of a detailed study of the matter of the future strategy in churching and other related factors. It is suggested that this planner be available for approximately one year to make this study and that fullest cooperation be given this planner by the cooperating churches in Alaska (and in the Committee on Alaska) both prior to and during the study. The goal sought is for recommendations to be compiled and transmitted to the Communions."

Mr. Regier presented a tentative budget as follows:

Office rent	$1,800.
Equipment	1,500.
Reproduction Services	750.
Supplies and Postage	600.
Miscellaneous	200.
Secretary & Assistant to Planner	4,200.
(Related Costs)	225.
Conferences & Consultations	1,000.
Church Planner	6,500.
(Related Costs)	300.
Travel (Including to & from Alaska)	2,400.
Housing	2,400.
Cost of living adjustment	1,625.
	$23,500.

Mr. Regier pointed out that this budget might be decreased if a way could be found for a denomination to make office space and clerical help available.

In the course of discussion, comments included the following:

Puerto Rico and Hawaii may come up with similar requests.

There was general agreement that the Alaska Council should participate financially to some extent; that details of the job to be done should be spelled out; and that the request should be considered in the light of the total church planning function of the National Council.

On motion of Dr. Madsen seconded by Dr. Jackman, it was:

VOTED that the committee receive the request with understanding and concern and request the staff to seek further information, including the extent of the Alaska Council participation; and that the request be placed on the agenda at the next meeting of the committee.

Progress Report on Mount Edgecumbe:

Mr. Regier reviewed the matter of personnel at Mount Edgecumbe, pointing out the long-term committee frustration, the staff concern during the summer of 1958, and Mr. Ruoss' confirmation of staff and committee feeling that a more constructive job could be accomplished there.

On motion of Dr. Jackman seconded by Dr. Madsen, it was:

VOTED that the committee request the Chairman of the Alaska Committee and the Executive of the Division to meet with Mr. Day in Seattle to arrange the closing conditions of employment.

Alaska Furlough Policy:

Discussion of National Council furlough policy, which stipulates that triennial furloughs for overseas staff are not automatic, led to the following action:

VOTED that this committee reaffirm its policy of triennial furloughs for personnel in Alaska.

Consultation in Alaska:

The suggestion of holding a consultation in Alaska with committee members and church leaders led to the following action:

VOTED that the committee look with favor upon the calling of a special enlarged meeting in Alaska in the fall, requesting the Executive Secretary of the Division to canvass possible dates.

Function of the Alaska Committee:

VOTED to request staff to re-study the status and function of the Alaska Committee in relation to the Division.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Louisa R. Shotwell, Secretary